

REPORT

ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL, 1910-1911.



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PART I



GENERAL SUMMARY.

SUMMARY.

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ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL, 1910-1911.

PART I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

CHAPTER I.

POLITICAL AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.

HEAD-QUARTERS OF GOVERNMENT AND TOURS OF HIS HONOUR THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR DURING 1910-11

DARJEELING was the head-quarters of Government from the 9th April to the 13th July, and again from the 1st September to the 7th November. For the remainder of the year the head-quarters were at Calcutta. Head-quarters of Government.

2. In July, on his way down from Darjeeling, His Honour visited Purnea, and thence went to Manihari Ghât, where he boarded the *Rhotas*. From Manihari Ghât His Honour travelled down the river to Calcutta, halting for a few hours at Berhampore, where he held a Durbar on the *Rhotas* for the purpose of conferring titles and distinctions on certain gentlemen of the Murshidabad district. Lieutenant-Governor's tours.

3. In August His Honour made a tour in the Orissa Division and visited Sambalpur and Balasore.

4. On his way down from Darjeeling in November, His Honour visited Monghyr, Jamalpur, Sabour and Burdwan, arriving at Calcutta on the 9th November. At Monghyr His Honour laid the foundation-stone of the Town Hall presented by Raja Kamaleswari Prasad Singh, and at Sabour he inspected the Government Agricultural College and the farms attached to it. At Burdwan His Honour opened the Burdwan Fraser Hospital.

5. During January 1911 His Honour visited Bankipore and Daltonganj. In the beginning of March he again visited Bankipore and Arrah, where he opened the Arrah-Sassaram Light Railway. He then made an extended tour in the Tihut Division, visiting Chapra, Motihari, Bettiah, Sirsiah and Muzaffarpur. At Chapra he laid the foundation-stone of the King Edward Memorial Town Hall and at Sirsiah inspected the Indigo Research Station. His Honour returned to Calcutta on the 12th March.

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION

6. The chief administrative reform of the year 1910-11 was the creation of an Executive Council for the province of Bengal. The spread of education and the consequent growth of public opinion, combined with the enlargement of the Provincial Legislative Council during the preceding year, had increased the duties and responsibilities of the head of the Province to such an extent that it was difficult for him to cope with them unaided. With the object of lightening the labours of the Creation of the Executive Council.

Lieutenant-Governor as well as of strengthening his authority, without at the same time impairing the prompt exercise of his executive power, the Governor-General in Council was empowered by section 3, sub-section (1), of the Indian Councils Act, 1909 (19 Edw. 7, c. 4), to create an Executive Council in Bengal. The Council was created by a proclamation dated the 18th November 1910. The number of Members was fixed at three or four. Two of the Members were to be persons who had been in the service of the Crown in India for at least twelve years. The other Member or Members were to be either persons so qualified or persons who had resided in India for at least twelve years. The Lieutenant-Governor was authorized to overrule the Council in cases of high importance, essentially affecting the public interest and welfare. The first gentlemen to be appointed as Members were—

The Hon'ble Mr. F. A. Slacke, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble Mr. F. W. Duke, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble Rai Kisorilal Goswami Bahadur.

They assumed charge of their offices on the 19th November 1910.

Redistribution
of work in the
Secretariat, and
appointment of
the Legal
Remembrancer
as Judicial
Secretary.

7. In order to afford relief to the Chief Secretary, the work of the Secretariat was redistributed, and the Revenue Department, which had previously formed part of the Chief Secretary's office, was placed under the General and Judicial Secretary. It was not, however, possible for one officer to undertake the work of the Revenue Department in addition to that of the Judicial and General Departments. In 1905, Sir Andrew Fraser had decided to place an officer of the Judicial Branch in control of the Judicial Department, and Sir Edward Baker appreciated the advantages of bringing the Judicial Branch of the service into closer touch with Government and of furnishing Government with the advice and assistance of a capable officer of sound judicial training in dealing with judicial questions. The work of the Judicial Department, however, was not in itself sufficient to occupy the whole time of a Secretary. On the other hand, it appeared that the work of the Legal Remembrancer, though weighty and responsible, was not in quantity such as to make it impossible to add to his duties. It was accordingly decided to make over the Judicial Department to the Legal Remembrancer, and he was therefore appointed to be Secretary to Government in the Judicial Department.

Abolition of
the Board of
Revenue.

8. Consequent on the formation of the Bengal Executive Council and the proposals of the Royal Commission upon Decentralization, it has been decided that the functions at present exercised by the Board of Revenue should be divided between the Executive Council and Commissioners of Divisions. The arrangements for this purpose are still under discussion.

STATES HAVING DIRECT POLITICAL RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL

Appointment
of an Agency
Engineer for
the Orissa Feudatory States.

9. On the transfer of the five States of the Central Provinces and two States of the Chota Nagpur Division to the Orissa Division in 1905. the question arose as to how the duties hitherto performed by the Agency Engineer, Chhattisgarh Feudatory States, in the States transferred from the Central Provinces were to be carried on. An arrangement was made whereby the Executive Engineer of the new Division of Sambalpur

also performed the duties of Agency Engineer for the States of Orissa, and the States of Patna, Kalahandi, Rairakhol, Gangpur and Bonai. This arrangement, however, did not prove satisfactory, the work being more than one officer could perform. Government has, therefore, sanctioned the appointment of an Agency Engineer on a salary of Rs. 1,000 rising by biennial increment of Rs. 50 to Rs. 1,200, and Mr. E. Beckett has been selected for the post on probation for one year. The total charges for the appointment of the Agency Engineer and his staff will be leviable from the States placed under his charge.

10. The appointment of an officer to supervise the forest administration of the Orissa States was rendered necessary in order to put a check on the process of denudation, which threatened to affect the interests of the States themselves and to cause damage to the adjoining British territory. The Government of India accordingly sanctioned the addition, as a temporary measure, of the post of a senior Assistant Conservator of Forests to the Provincial Cadre. This officer has been placed in charge of one of the less important Imperial forest divisions in Bengal, the Imperial officer thereby set free being appointed to supervise the forest administration of the States. Mr. A. N. Grieve was appointed to the post and took up his duties in November 1910.

Appointment of an Imperial Forest Officer to the Native States of Orissa.

11. During the year 1910-11 negotiations continued on the project for the extension of the Mourbhanj Light Railway. The Feudatory Chief of Mourbhanj on the one hand, and Mr. B. Barooah, on behalf of the Company who will finance the scheme, agreed to the draft Railway agreement and the timber lease which had been revised in accordance with suggestions made by the Government of India. It is anticipated that the scheme will be carried into effect at an early date.

Project for the extension of the Mourbhanj Light Railway.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

12. The harvest of 1910-11 was in the majority of the districts even better than in 1909-10, and as a consequence the decline in the price of the staple food-crops which was very marked in 1909-10 continued during the year under report. The extent to which prices have fallen as a result of the good harvests of 1909 and 1910 may be gauged by the fact that whereas in 1908-09 the average price of common rice was less than 10 seers per rupee in every district except two, in 1910-11 there were seven districts in which the average price was 14 seers per rupee or over, seven districts in which the average price was between 13 and 14 seers per rupee, and no district in which rice was dearer than 10 seers per rupee. In spite of this marked fall in prices, wages maintained their previous high level in all divisions in which cash payments are made, owing to the continued demand for labour in the industrial centres. The comparative plenty enabled the agricultural population to repay the *taccavi* advances made during the preceding years of scarcity, and to clear themselves to some extent of the debts incurred to local mahajans.

Material condition.

13. Notwithstanding the prosperous conditions which prevailed during the year, the death-rate in 1910 was higher than in 1909, viz., 33.10 per mille of population as against 30.55. This was due to the prevalence of cholera and plague especially in the Patna and Tirhut divisions. On the other hand the birth-rate rose to 39.72 per mille, the

Health.

rise being most marked in the Orissa division, in which the birth-rate showed a considerable decline during the years of scarcity.

FAMINE AND FLOODS.

14. In July 1910, there were severe floods in the districts of Champaran, Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga. They were apparently caused by unusually heavy rainfall at the base of the Nepal hills, which raised the level of the Gandak even above the height attained in 1906. The district principally affected was Darbhanga, a great part of which was under water. Fortunately the floods subsided rapidly, and although considerable damage was done to roads and bridges, there was no great loss of crops. The rest of the Province was free from flood and drought.

Amendment of the Bengal Famine Code

15. The Bengal Famine Code of 1905 is being revised partly at the instance of the Government of India, and partly in the light of the experience gained during recent famines in this province. The new edition will shortly be published. The principal defect noticed in the existing Code (which was based upon the recommendations of the Famine Commission of 1901) was that it did not authorise the grant of gratuitous relief, except on a limited scale in poor-houses and through the police, until test works had established the existence of distress and famine had been declared. In practice, however, it has been found necessary to give gratuitous relief even although the attendance of labourers on test works is not such as to warrant the declaration of famine. Since 1901, there has been a change in conditions due partly to the expansion of the policy of indirect relief in the shape of loans under the Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Acts, and partly to an increase in the demand for labour. These factors have combined to cause a postponement in the opening of regular relief works and have to a certain extent curtailed this form of relief. They do not, however, minimise the need for gratuitous relief inasmuch as, on the appearance of distress (when there is necessarily a contraction of private charity), the able bodied members of families in need of relief emigrate freely in search of employment, leaving their dependants without the necessary means of subsistence. The new Code provides for the grant of gratuitous relief in villages during the period of observation and test, and also for the declaration of famine when gratuitous relief on a considerable scale is needed. In other respects too the Code is being rendered more elastic than it was, and the functions and responsibilities of District Boards are being more clearly defined.

CHAPTER J.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

REALISATION OF REVENUE.

Revenue and Cess.

16. There was an increase of Rs. 69,166 in the net land revenue demand in 1910-11 as compared with the preceding year, and of

Rs. 1,86,501 in that for road and public works cesses. The collections of land revenue were good, the percentage of total collections on total demands being higher than in the previous three years. The collection of cesses showed a distinct improvement, the provincial percentage rising from 99.4 to 101.8.

SURVEYS

17. The main work of the Survey Department consisted of traverse Work of survey, which covered a larger area than in the previous year. The Survey revision survey of Calcutta was in progress and proved a difficult task. The experimental survey of the Ganges *diara* was continued.

LAND RECORDS AND SETTLEMENT

18. During the year ending the 30th September 1910, the work of Land Records survey and settlement was continued in 17 districts of the province. Records were finally published in respect of 4,302 square miles, and the total area for which a record-of-rights has now been completed is 51,392 square miles out of 115,819 square miles in Bengal. Two districts were completed during the year. The operations in the Sonthal Parganas, begun in 1898, have spread over 12 years and extended to 5,000 square miles. Cadastral maps and a record-of-rights have been prepared for the whole area, and rents have been settled for all tenants. The system of administration in this district is peculiarly dependent on the record-of-rights, and in this respect it is now admirably equipped. The record-of-rights of the Ranchi district was also completed during the year. The operations in Ranchi were undertaken to ascertain the causes of the agrarian troubles which have oppressed the district for the last half century. One of the chief results of the operations has been the passing of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act of 1908. This enactment, together with the preparation of a complete record-of-rights, has decreased enormously the burdens of litigation and of general administration, and there is now abroad a feeling of security in the enjoyment of agrarian rights.

In the course of the year proposals have been submitted and have been sanctioned for the extension of survey and settlement operations to the districts of Gaya and Midnapore. The operations in Gaya are in continuation of the work now in progress in the adjoining district of Shahabad. Gaya is the last Bihar district to be taken up by the Bihar settlement party. Apart from general administrative considerations, the necessity for a complete survey and record-of-rights in Gaya arises from the complications and difficulties of its irrigation system which is at present in danger of breaking down through the disintegration of the larger proprietary estates. The special interest of the extension of the operations to Midnapore lies in the fact that it is the first of the deltaic districts of Bengal to be dealt with by the Settlement Department. The western side of the district with its large aboriginal population will be taken in hand first, and it is hoped that a solution will be found to the problems of land alienation and indebtedness that are common to the aboriginal tracts of Midnapore, Bankura and Birbhum.

The Orissa revision settlement was extended during the year to the Puri district and made satisfactory progress. The experiment of annual maintenance of records was tried throughout the Balasore district and proved that the results were not commensurate with the cost. Proposals for a modified form of triennial maintenance have now been submitted and are under the consideration of the Local Government in consultation with the Government of India.

WASTE LANDS.

Leases of waste lands in the Sundarbans.

19. Negotiations have been concluded for the lease of the Fraserganj Government estate to the Hon'ble Maharaja Manindra Chandra Nandi of Cossimbazar at an annual rent of Rs. 13,564 and on payment of Rs. 60,830 for the stock, machinery and buildings. The proposal to revert to a modified system of leases to capitalists has been sanctioned by the Government of India. The form of lease to be adopted under the new system will be drawn up with a view to safeguard the rights of the actual cultivators, to prevent unnecessary sub-infeudation and to secure the proper maintenance of embankments and sluices.

WARDS' AND ATTACHED ESTATES.

Delegation of powers under the Court of Wards' Act

20. The Royal Commission on Decentralisation recommended that estates under the management of the Court of Wards should be divided into three classes, viz.—

- (i) estates having a gross income of more than one lakh of rupees,
- (ii) estates whose gross income is between Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 1,00,000, and
- (iii) other estates.

It was suggested that full powers in regard to estates belonging to class (i) should be exercised by the Court itself, and that Commissioners and Collectors should exercise similar powers in regard to estates included, respectively, in classes (ii) and (iii). After careful consideration of the proposal, it was decided to accept the classification suggested by the Commission so far as classes (i) and (ii) were concerned. Action was accordingly taken to raise the limit of the power of Commissioners in regard to properties under the control of the Court of Wards from estates with an income of Rs. 50,000 and less to estates with an income of a lakh of rupees and less. It was not, however, considered advisable to empower Collectors to exercise full powers in respect of all estates under class (iii).

REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES

Relations between landlords and tenants.

21. The relations between landlords and tenants were on the whole satisfactory, except in the Patna Division, where they were somewhat disturbed owing to survey and settlement operations. Some cases of friction neither serious nor of a general character were reported from the Burdwan, Presidency and Bhagalpur divisions.

The Orissa Tenancy Bill

22. On the recommendation of Mr. S. L. Macdox, who had been placed on special duty to enquire into the working of the Bengal Tenancy Act as extended to Orissa, a Bill to consolidate the enactments

relating to landlords and tenants in the districts of Cuttack, Puri and Balasore, and to regulate the status of holders of sub-tenures and resumed revenue-free lands, the commutation of produce rents, etc., was submitted to the Government of India in September 1910. The Bill, of which the general principles were approved by the Government of India, has been introduced in the local Legislative Council.

23. Mr. S. L. Maddox, who was deputed to make enquiries in connection with the law of landlord and tenant in Orissa, was at the same time asked to report on the provisions of the Bill for the maintenance of land records in Orissa with reference to the opinions which had been received from local officers on public bodies. After a careful consideration of his report, Government came to the conclusion that it was undesirable to adopt any scheme of maintenance which did not provide for the attestation of the record by a gazetted officer, the presumption of correctness to be attached to the entries in the maintained records and the adjustment of rents on alteration of area. A separate Bill for the maintenance of land records in Orissa was, however, considered to be unnecessary, and the relevant provisions of the abandoned measure were inserted instead as a chapter in the Orissa Tenancy Bill which is now before the Bengal Legislative Council.

Bill for the maintenance of land records in Orissa.

24. The object of the Chota Nagpur Encumbered Estates Act, 1876, is to preserve the estates of the landholders of that division who have always been held to be entitled to special protection against the results of improvidence. The Act, however, did not provide for the suspension of proceedings in Civil and Revenue Courts during the pendency of the application for relief. The necessary protection during this period was afforded by rules made by Government under sub-section (2), section 327 of the old Civil Procedure Code (Act XIV of 1882), which empowered the Commissioner to stay any sale in execution of a decree of a Civil Court for such period as he deemed necessary while he was enquiring into the circumstances of the case. As these rules ceased to operate on the enactment of the new Code of Civil Procedure (Act V of 1908), which has not repeated the provisions of sub-section (2), section 327 of the old Code, a short Bill inserting a new section 2B in the Chota Nagpur Encumbered Estates Act, to restore the power which the Commissioner of the division had before the passing of the new Civil Procedure Code, and making a consequential amendment to section 12 of that Act, was introduced in the Bengal Legislative Council towards the close of the year, and was subsequently passed into law as Act IV of 1911.

Amendment of the Chota Nagpur Encumbered Estates Act.

25. The Patwari Cess previously levied in the district of Sambalpur under the Central Provinces Land Revenue Act XVIII of 1881 was abolished by an executive order of the Government of India with effect from the 1st April 1906. In order to give legal validity to this order, it was necessary to undertake legislation, but Act IV of 1907, which was eventually passed by the Government of India, referred solely to the territories administered by the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces. For the district of Sambalpur, in the province of Bengal, it was necessary to legalize the abolition of these cesses by special legislation, and Act I of 1911 was passed with this object.

Abolition of the Patwari Cess in Sambalpur.

CHAPTER III.

PROTECTION.

LEGISLATION

Acts passed.

26. Four Acts (Nos. III and IV of 1910, and I and II of 1911) were passed by the Bengal Legislative Council during the year 1910-11. The most important of these Acts were the Calcutta and Suburban Police (Amendment) Act and the Bengal Vaccination (Amendment) Act. Each Act is mentioned under the head "Course of Legislation" in Part II of this report.

The Bengal
Irrigation
Private
Works)
Bill.

27. On the recommendation of the Indian Irrigation Commission the question of the initiation of legislation to secure the repair and maintenance of private irrigation works and to regulate the supply and distribution of water by means of private irrigation works has been under consideration, and various editions of a draft Bill to give effect to the suggestions of the Commission have been before Government. The last edition of the Bill, prepared in 1909, was circulated for opinion. Replies have been received which show considerable variations of opinion among the officers and associations consulted. It is contemplated to appoint a Committee consisting of experienced officers and non-official gentlemen, who are acquainted with the subject, to examine the provisions of the Bill in the light of the opinions recorded and to advise as to the final form in which the Bill may be recommended to the Government of India.

POLICE

Political Crime

28. The murder of Khan Bahadur Shams-ul-Alum, Deputy Superintendent of Police, in January 1910 was followed by a lull in political crime, but early in 1911 the murder of Head-constable Srish Chandra Chakravarty in the streets of Calcutta, and the bomb outrage at Writers' Buildings, showed that the revolutionary movement, though to some extent paralysed by successful prosecutions and preventive action, still needed to be carefully watched by the police and by Government.

During the year the Special Tribunal of the High Court was occupied in hearing political cases. Of these, the most important decided during the year 1910-11 were the Haludbari Dacoity case, which resulted in the conviction of 7 out of the 10 accused, and the Khulna Gang case, in which 11 out of the 13 accused were convicted. The Howrah Gang case, the 10th Jats case and the Khulna-Jessore Gang case were completed shortly after the year 1910-11, in the Howrah Gang case the accused were acquitted with the exception of those already convicted in the Haludbari dacoity; this acquittal led to the withdrawal of the case against the accused in the 10th Jats case; in the Khulna-Jessore Gang case clemency was shown by the Crown to the accused who were released on executing bonds to appear when called on. The Midnapore Damage suits were the subject of a prolonged hearing in the High Court by Mr. Justice Fletcher, and judgment was not delivered till some months after the close of the year.

29. The tone of the press showed a decided improvement during the year, though the action of the police and of Government, particularly in political cases, continued to receive severe and often malignant criticism. Boycott Day in August 1910 passed off without any demonstration in any part of the province, while Partition Day in October 1910 was celebrated with the usual demonstrations in Calcutta; but the assembled crowds took little active interest in the speeches delivered by the popular leaders, while little or no enthusiasm was exhibited in the mufassal. On the whole, it may be said that the demonstrations of 1910 showed that the movement was losing its hold on the popular imagination. Political situation in general.

The year 1910-11 showed a distinct improvement in the political situation, and the action which had been taken by Government both in regard to special legislation, criminal prosecutions and preventive police measures was fully justified by the results obtained.

30. As Regulation III of 1900 for the organization and maintenance of the Rural Police in the Sonthal Parganas was not found to work satisfactorily, it was necessary to make certain amendments in order to improve the system of collection and to bring the periods of payment into conformity with local conditions. A new Regulation was framed by this Government and submitted to the Government of India. After receiving the approval of the Governor-General in Council and the assent of the Governor-General, it was published as Regulation No. IV of 1910. Rural Police.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

31 In comparison with the two preceding years, there was a large decrease in the number of reported offences under the Indian Penal Code, especially in the districts of Darbhanga, Monghyr, Ranchi and Puri. The increase in the number of offences under special and local laws was maintained. The number of cases declared to be false after trial or inquiry was less than in 1909. Magistrates in the mufassal decided more criminal cases than in the previous year, but there was a small decrease in the amount of work disposed of by the Presidency Magistrates. The appellate work of Magistrates declined, while their revisional work increased. Work of the year

As in 1909, there was a decrease in the original and appellate work which came before the courts of session, and an increase in revisional work. In the High Court, a slight decrease of both appellate and revisional work was noticeable. Six cases, involving 92 persons, were committed to that court for trial by special benches under the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908 (XIV of 1908). The average duration of each case disposed of was 89 days from the date of commitment.

During the year under review, 85 persons (56 in Howrah, 16 in Khulna, 11 in the Presidency town and two in the 24-Parganas), as compared with 50 in 1909, were under trial for offences against the State. Of these, 21 were convicted, 17 were acquitted or discharged and the remaining persons were under trial at the close of the year.

JAILS.

General
condition
of
prisoners

32. The decrease in the number of admissions to the jails which began in July 1909 was fully maintained in 1910, the average daily number of prisoners being 13,163, as against 15,065 in 1909. The new Central Jail at Kalighat was opened in January 1910, and with the sanction of the Secretary of State preliminary arrangements were undertaken for the construction of the new Central Jail at Monghyr. As soon as this jail is completed, the old Presidency Jail will be closed, and the problem of overcrowding, which has been a blot on the jail administration of Bengal, will be solved at any rate for a considerable period. The decline in overcrowding, the prosperity of the year and the careful attention paid by officers of the Jail Department to matters of sanitation combined to reduce the death-rate to 18.6 per mille, a figure which has been surpassed only once in the history of the department, viz., in 1907, when the rate fell to 17.5.

CIVIL JUSTICE

Calcutta High
Court.

33. The number of original suits decided in 1910 was 976; the number left undisposed of at its close was 1,361, or 260 more than in the previous year. Of the suits decided, 216 were dismissed for default or want of prosecution, 295 were decreed *ex-parte* and 250 were decreed after contest. The suits pending over one year rose from 352 in 1909 to 491 in 1910.

Increase in the
maximum
number of
Judges who
may be
appointed to
the High
Court.

34. In January 1911, the Judges of the High Court, Calcutta, brought to the notice of the Government of India the heavy accumulation of work in the Court, and pressed upon the serious consideration of that Government the desirability of obtaining Parliamentary sanction to such increase in the number of Judges of the Court as would enable them to reduce the arrear that had accumulated. This Government, being consulted, agreed with the Hon'ble Judges that the number should be raised to 20, including the Chief Justice, and suggested that power should be taken in the proposed statute to appoint temporary Judges also. Statute 1 and 2 Geo. 5, c. 18, was accordingly passed. It received the Royal assent on the 19th August 1911.

Subordinate
Civil Courts.

35. A conspicuous feature of the year under review was the large increase in the number of original suits instituted in the mufassil courts. The increase occurred in rent and money suits, chiefly in the former, and the reason generally assigned was that, owing to a good harvest, landlords freely resorted to the courts to enforce their claims. The increase was most marked in the districts of Purnea, Darbhanga, Bhagalpur, the 24-Parganas, Burdwan and Murshidabad. The total value of suits instituted was less by over 4½ crores than the total for 1909. The reason for this decrease was that two title suits of exceptionally high value were instituted in the preceding year. The duration of contested cases tried under the ordinary procedure by District Judges decreased, while that of uncontested suits increased. The increase in the duration of cases in the courts of Subordinate Judges and Munsifs was very noticeable. The number of suits pending at the close of the year was 114,912, as against 85,663 in

1909. This excess was due to the larger number of suits instituted during the year. The number of suits decided in the Presidency Small Cause Court was 24,228, as compared with 25,253 in 1909. Of these, 18,875 were uncontested. The average duration of contested cases was 70.9 days, the highest in the decade. The appellate arrears in the courts subordinate to the High Court decreased slightly. The number of courts inspected by District Judges was noticeably less than in the preceding year.

REGISTRATION.

36. Improved agricultural conditions produced a large decrease in the number of registrations in the Bihar districts. A similar decrease, though for different reasons, occurred in the Chota Nagpur division, where the Tenancy Act VI of 1908 had imposed restrictions on the transfer of holdings by the aboriginal population. The extension of the operations of Co-operative Credit Societies in Purnea and Champaran and of grain banks in the Sonthal Parganas contributed to a decrease of registrations in those districts, a fact which shows that the agricultural population are beginning to appreciate the benefits of co-operation and to rely less on money-lenders for financial assistance.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

37. In accordance with the recommendation of the Decentralisation Commission that the system of election of Municipal Commissioners by the ratepayers concerned should be extended, the names of eighteen Municipalities in Bengal were removed from the first schedule of the Bengal Municipal Act, III of 1884.

8. The Royal Commission upon Decentralisation having recommended that all orders requiring Municipalities to spend a certain percentage of their income upon particular services should be withdrawn, it was directed that the only order of this description current in Bengal, requiring Municipalities to spend at least 3.2 per cent. of their ordinary income on primary education, should be abrogated, although the principle underlying the order should be adhered to as providing a suitable standard by which the sufficiency of the expenditure on primary education might be judged.

39. With reference to the suggestion of the Decentralisation Commission that the control exercised by Divisional Commissioners over Municipal budgets should be withdrawn, as an experimental measure the Municipalities of Howrah, Cossipore-Chitpur, Manicktola and Burdwan, whose annual income is in excess of Rs. 1,00,000, were left a free hand in framing their budgets according to their discretion, subject only to the conditions that the necessary minimum closing balance should be maintained, that due provision should be made for the service of all outstanding loans, and that the provisions of the Act and any statutory rules and standing orders of Government should be observed. Further, in the case of all Municipalities it was directed that interference with details should be avoided, and that efforts should be made to enforce efficiency rather by advice than by explicit direction.

Calcutta Improvement Act

40. The Bill to provide for the improvement of the town of Calcutta was introduced in the Bengal Legislative Council during the year and was passed after its close.

Improvement of water-supply in rural areas.

41. With the view of impressing upon District Boards the importance of the improvement of the local sources of water-supply (a subject to which attention had been repeatedly drawn), further circular orders were issued pointing out the desirability of spending at least Rs. 5,000 per annum on this object, and it was intimated that should instances arise in which District Boards habitually omitted to devote an appropriate amount to this purpose, the reduction of the grants-in-aid given by Government would be considered.

Village organization

42. As a result of a discussion of the conclusions at which the Decentralisation Commission had arrived on the subject of village organisation, it was directed that the existing unions constituted under the Local Self-Government Act should be re-examined with a view to weed out those which had proved themselves to contain no germs of success, and to constitute new committees in villages in which the local officers were satisfied that the need existed for such an authority. The enquiry is still in progress, but it should result in an extension of the system upon sounder lines than those upon which it has hitherto been tried.

Subdivisional Officers prohibited from standing for election to the District Board.

43. In response to a representation that the freedom of choice of Local Boards in selecting their representatives should be left as unfettered as possible, the election to the District Board of Subdivisional Officers by the Local Boards to which they belong was prohibited, and it was directed that if it was considered desirable that such an officer should be a member of the District Board, he should be appointed *ex-officio* in that capacity.

MARINE.

Port of Calcutta

44. The number of vessels visiting the Port of Calcutta increased during the year under review. The pilotage receipts amounted to Rs. 14,37,370, as against Rs. 13,67,358 in 1909-10. There were large increases in the shipment and discharges under both European and Indian articles owing to a greater demand for seamen.

Calcutta Port Trust.

45. The income of the Calcutta Port Trust amounted to Rs. 1,28,26,171, as against Rs. 1,18,36,518 in 1909-10, and the expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,28,23,770, as against Rs. 1,19,97,364 in 1909-10. The capital debt stood at Rs. 8,43,36,876; against this, the assets of the Trust are valued at Rs. 10,67,92,448.

Orissa Ports

46. The earnings of the Orissa Ports decreased, as a smaller number of vessels visited the ports during the year. The Ports Fund, however, closed with a small credit balance as a result of the revised distribution of charges sanctioned by the Government of India.

MISCELLANEOUS

Agency for Government Consignments.

47. A revised scale of rates for the handling of stores by the Agent for Government Consignments was sanctioned by the Government of India, and was enforced from 1st April 1910.

48. With a view to prevent the nuisance caused by the smoke emitted from coke-making in open fires, the Government had under consideration a proposal to amend the Bengal Smoke Nuisances Act, 1905. Smoke-nuisances.

49. The provisions of the Bengal Steam-boilers and Prime-movers Boilers Act, 1879, were extended to the district of Murshidabad with effect from 21st February, 1911. A proposal to extend the provisions of the Act to the whole of Bengal was under consideration.

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

AGRICULTURE.

50. When the Department of Agriculture was separated from the Department of Land Records in the year 1906, a member of the Indian Civil Service was appointed Director of the new Department for five years. The chief consideration which prompted the issue of this order was that a member of the Agricultural Service, if appointed Director of Agriculture, would be prone to advance the particular branch of which he might be the expert, to the prejudice of other branches. The hope was at the same time expressed that the Agricultural Service would eventually be able to provide its own Director. The Department is, however, still in process of organisation and, besides the reason already noted, an additional argument has been urged in the fact that no members of the Agricultural Service have as yet acquired that intimate knowledge of the people and of the administration of the province which is essential to the successful administration of the Department. It has, therefore, been decided that the post of Director should continue to be held by a member of the Indian Civil Service until a properly qualified member of the Agricultural Service can be found to fill it. Appointment of Director of Agriculture.

51. After careful consideration it was decided that a Provincial Agricultural Service for Bengal should be gradually formed as qualified men became available. A scheme based on present requirements has been sanctioned under which a Provincial Service has been constituted with eight appointments on progressive pay, the minimum varying from Rs. 150 to Rs. 250, and the maximum from Rs. 250 to Rs. 400. The Subordinate Agricultural Service, sanctioned at the same time, consists of two Divisions, Upper and Lower. The former consists of 14 appointments on progressive pay, of which the minimum varies from Rs. 75 to Rs. 100, while the maximum is in all cases Rs. 150. Lower Subordinates have been divided into six grades on time-scale pay which varies from Rs. 50 to Rs. 150. The sanctioned number of appointments of this class is 48, of which only three are held at present. Provincial and Subordinate Agricultural Services in Bengal.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES

52. One of the leading features of the movement during the last few years has been the spontaneous development of urban societies; in 1906-07 four societies existed; in 1910-11 fifty-three. In rural areas the

societies have become more effective institutions, financially stronger and better managed. Apart from the satisfactory economic development, the societies are reported to show considerable interest in matters of education and sanitation, and the panchayets are employed for the settlement of local disputes and party feuds, an indication of the valuable functions which these societies may in the near future perform in village administration.

WEATHER AND CROPS.

53. Heavy rains in July and August caused some damage to the *bhadoi* crops in Bihar, as well as in Nadia, Murshidabad, Cuttack and Angul. Taking as a whole the *bhadoi* crop was a little below and the winter rice crop a little above the average, while the *rabi* crop was normal. Taking 100 to represent the normal outturn, the total outturn of all harvests for the year was 103.

FORESTS

Reorganization of the Provincial Forest Service and of the Clerical Staff of the Bengal Forest Circle

54. The Provincial Forest Service was constituted in 1891, when the pay of the Lower Controlling staff (Extra Assistant Conservators) was fixed at Rs. 200 rising to Rs. 350, and that of the Upper Controlling staff (Extra Deputy Conservators) at Rs. 450 rising to Rs. 600 a month; promotion was then regulated by grades. This scale of pay, however, proved inadequate, and a time-scale system has been introduced with effect from the 1st March 1911. Under this system, an Extra Assistant Conservator of Forests, on permanent appointment to the service, will receive a pay of Rs. 250, which will rise automatically to Rs. 550, after 15 years' service by annual increments of Rs. 20. He may then be promoted to the Upper Controlling staff, provided there is a permanent vacancy and he is considered fit for a major charge. If such promotion cannot be given for want of a vacancy in the Upper Controlling staff, his emoluments may be augmented by the grant of a personal allowance of Rs. 50 a month after a service of not less than three years on Rs. 550; and this allowance may be increased to Rs. 100 on the expiry of a further period of four years, and to Rs. 150 on the expiry of a second period of four years. The initial pay of an Extra Deputy Conservator has been fixed at Rs. 575 a month rising to Rs. 650 by annual increments of Rs. 25. After one year's service on Rs. 650 a month an officer may, by a special order, be promoted to Rs. 700 for three years, and again to Rs. 800 for a further period of three years, and finally to Rs. 850 a month until the close of his service. The pay and prospects of the clerical staff of the Bengal Forest Service have also been improved with a view to attracting more suitable men to the service.

Denudation of Forests. —

55. The Bill for the conservation of private forests, which was framed by the committee appointed to report on the effects of the denudation of forests, was circulated during the year under review to selected individuals and associations. The measures recommended by the committee with a view to prevent further denudation have received

the general approval of the majority of the persons whose opinions have been taken on the subject, and though the committee's Bill has been criticised as encroaching unduly on private rights, many landowners in tracts where the effects of deforestation are serious admit the necessity for legislation on the lines proposed. The Bill has now been redrafted, and will be examined in greater detail in the light of the criticisms received.

MANUFACTURES AND MINES.

56. The outturn of jute rose from 1,329,400 bales in the previous year to 1,446,000 in the year under report. A somewhat larger quantity of tea was manufactured in Ranchi and Hazaribagh than in the previous year, but in Darjeeling, where the industry is important, the total quantity manufactured was 897,262 lbs. less than in 1909-10. There was a marked recovery in the coal industry, the total output being 10,778,530 tons, or 117,719 tons more than in 1909. Mica, iron and manganese ore showed a smaller output than in the previous year. The sugar industry continues to decline owing to the competition with bounty-fed sugar, especially in the Presidency division; the sugar factories of North Bihar, however, had a successful year in spite of the floods and competition.

57. Since 1899 the Indian Tea Association, with the assistance of Tea subsidies from Government, have been carrying on research work in connection with the cultivation and manufacture of tea. The enquiries made have emphasised the need for a closer knowledge of the different forms of plant disease, and the Association propose to attach a mycological section to the existing scientific departments. In support of this scheme, Government has raised its contribution to the Association from Rs. 3,500 to Rs. 4,000 per annum for a period of five years from 1st April 1911.

WORKING OF THE INDIA FACTORIES ACT

58. As the temporary appointment of Inspector and Certifying Surgeon of Factories in the area comprised between Naihati and Baranagore, in the Barrackpore subdivision of the 24-Parganas district, for one year from the 12th August 1909, resulted in a distinct improvement in the standard of child labour employed in the factories of that area, its retention for a further period of one year was sanctioned. At the same time, in order to extend the benefits of the Certifying Surgeon's inspections as far as possible, 12 factories lying within the Serampore thana in the Hooghly district and Golabari and Bally thanas in the Howrah district on the opposite bank of the river were added to his jurisdiction.

59. A steam launch has been provided at a cost of Rs. 16,000 for the use of the Chief Inspector of Factories and his staff, in order to facilitate the inspection of factories situated in the neighbourhood of Calcutta, the majority of which are on or near the bank of the river Hooghly. The launch is also available for the use of the Certifying Surgeon of Factories, Barrackpore, and the Inspectors of the Boiler Commission.

TRADE.

Foreign trade. 60. The value of the sea-borne trade of the Province (merchandise only) in 1910-11 was Rs. 126·87 crores, as against Rs. 116·54 crores in 1909-10, an improvement of Rs. 9·93 crores, or nearly 8·5 per cent. Of this total, the share of Calcutta amounted to Rs. 126·4 crores, as compared with Rs. 116·51 crores in the preceding year. Both the grand total for the Province as a whole and the total for Calcutta, exclusive of the subordinate ports, surpassed the record figures of 1907-08.

Imports. 61. Imports into Calcutta aggregated Rs. 48·54 crores, the expansion being one of 4·1 per cent. Of the seven classes into which articles are grouped for statistical purposes (viz., I.—Animals living, II.—Articles of food and drink, III.—Metals and manufactures of metals, IV.—Chemicals, drugs, etc., V.—Oils, VI.—Raw materials and unmanufactured articles, VII.—Articles manufactured and partly manufactured), five, namely, classes I, II, V, VI and VII, are marked by an increase. Towards the year's total, yarns and textile fabrics, the leading group in class VII, contributed, as in previous years, the largest sum; and it accounted also for Rs. 65 lakhs, or 34 per cent. of the total increase of Rs. 1·92 crores. Metals and manufactures of metals come next with a contribution of Rs. 9·8 crores, or 20·2 per cent. of the total. Of the items that make up this class, railway plant and rolling stock is the only important one marked by a decrease. The class "Articles of food and drink" holds the third place in point of value with 17·2 per cent. Sugar, with a total of Rs. 5·92 crores, represents 70·9 per cent. of the value of this class. The contributions of the other classes, namely, V, II, VI and I, were 2·9, 2·2, 1·3 and 0·3 per cent., respectively. Of the total imports, 67·4 per cent. was received from the United Kingdom as compared with 71 per cent. in 1909-10. The shares of the other principal contributing countries were—Java 11·1, Belgium 3·6, Germany 3·1, the Straits Settlements 2·7, the United States of America 2·4, Japan 2·3 and Austria-Hungary 1·4 per cent.

Exports. 62. The total value of exports from the Province was Rs. 78·33 crores, an advance of Rs. 8·01 crores, or 11·4 per cent. Jute continued to be the dominant staple of the export trade, its contribution to the total being 39 per cent. Opium, tea, grain and pulse, hides and skins, oilseeds and lac are other items in each of which the trade exceeded a crore of rupees, and all of these, except hides and skins and lac, show increased values. The United Kingdom was the best customer, taking 24·3 per cent. of the exports, the United States held the second place with 14·3 per cent.; China appropriated this year the third place with 10·9 per cent.; and Germany came fourth with 9·3 per cent.

Trans-frontier trade. 63. The value of the trans-frontier trade of Bengal in merchandise only was Rs. 386 lakhs, an increase of 23 per cent. Of the entire trade of the year, some 91 per cent. was trade with Nepal, while the shares of Sikkim, Tibet and Bhutan were 4, 5 and 0·5 per cent., respectively. The total trade with Nepal rose from Rs. 282 lakhs to Rs. 349 lakhs. Imports were higher than those of last year as a result of a favourable agricultural season. Exports also advanced from Rs. 100 lakhs

to Rs. 112 lakhs, cotton yarns and fabrics, metals, oils, spices, sugar and tobacco accounting chiefly for the increase. The trade with Tibet discloses a satisfactory recovery from the adverse conditions of the previous year; the improvement was one of Rs. 5½ lakhs, or 45 per cent. over the value of Rs. 128 lakhs recorded in 1909-10. Raw wool, living animals, skins of sheep, musk and yaks' tails continue to be the staple articles of import from that country. The chief exports were cotton and woollen piece goods, precious stones, apparel, metals, tobacco and silk manufactures. Imports from Sikkim remained steady at Rs. 9 lakhs, while exports from Bengal were valued at Rs. 8 lakhs, as against Rs. 9½ lakhs in the previous year. The total trade with Bhutan amounted to Rs. 24,000.

64. The progressive record of six years in the coasting trade was broken for the second time in the year under review, the decline being from Rs. 1,896 to Rs. 1,752 lakhs, or 7.6 per cent. Of the total trade of Rs. 1,752 lakhs, 46.4 per cent. represents trade with Burma, 13.5 per cent. with Madras, 29.2 per cent. with Bombay and Sind, 2.9 per cent. with Eastern Bengal and Assam and 2.1 per cent. with non-British ports. The restricted receipts of paddy and rice from Burma and of groundnuts from Madras were again a feature of the year's trade. Jute manufactures regained the leading rank in the list of exports from which they were ousted last year by coal.

65. The value of the trade of the Province by rail and river amounted to Rs. 170 crores as against Rs. 163 crores in 1909-10. Imports into Bengal including Calcutta, from other provinces were valued at Rs. 54.56 crores, as compared with 50.53 crores in the preceding year. Raw jute was again the leading staple of the import trade; hides and skins, Indian tea, grain and pulse, oilseeds, raw cotton and opium were the other important articles of this trade. Exports from Bengal, including Calcutta, to other provinces rose from Rs. 40.51 crores to Rs. 42.07 crores, the improvement being thus one of 3.8 per cent. The principal articles of export were cotton goods, metals (mainly iron and steel), sugar, gunny-bags, cloth and oils.

FISHERIES.

66. The organization of a permanent Fishery Department to be controlled for the present by the Director of Agriculture, Bengal, has been sanctioned by the Secretary of State. The expert establishment will consist of a European scientific assistant, to be styled Deputy Director of Fisheries; he will be assisted by two Superintendents of Fisheries.

67. During the year experiments were conducted in the breeding of carp in confined waters and in *bheri*-culture, and investigations were undertaken with a view to locate the spawning grounds of *hilsa*. Much useful information has been collected, but the results so far achieved are inconclusive. The fishery survey of the province is progressing.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT—ESTABLISHMENT.

68. To facilitate inspection, the local works in the districts of Burdwan and Hooghly, hitherto under the control of the Superintending

Administrative changes.

Engineer, Western Circle, have been placed under the control of the Superintending Engineers, South-Western and Central Circles, respectively, as they are more accessible from Calcutta than from Ranchi. The local works in the Murshidabad district were similarly transferred from the control of the Superintending Engineer, Central Circle, to that of the Superintending Engineer, South-Western Circle, who has to travel through that district in the ordinary course of his duties.

Reorganization.

69. Owing to the creation of the Joint Technical Examination Board for the Overseer and Sub-Overseer examination in the Province of Bengal and of Eastern Bengal and Assam, new rules were promulgated for the appointment of officers to the Engineer Establishment and of subordinates to the Upper Subordinate Establishment. The power hitherto exercised by the Government of India in making appointments and promotions to and in the classes of Superintending Engineer was delegated to this Government early in the year 1911.

BUILDINGS.

Imperial.

70. The principal works carried out during the year were—the new Imperial Secretariat building in Council House Street, which was nearly completed, the new outbuildings and several structural alterations and additions to the Paper Currency Office at Calcutta, the new Press building in Dhurrumtollah Street and the new Stamp and Stationery Office buildings in Church Lane, Calcutta, which were under construction, as well as alterations and improvements to the General Post Office.

Provincial.

71. The most important Provincial works were—

(1) In connection with Magistrates' and Collectors' Courts, the construction of additional accommodation for the Midnapore Collectorate.

(2) In connection with Civil Courts, the construction of a new Civil Court at Cuttack and additional accommodation for the Civil Courts and offices at Jessore which were completed.

(3) For the Jail Department, the construction of the staff quarters and the Press building in connection with the new Presidency Jail at Alipore.

(4) For the Police Department, a barrack for the accommodation of the Police Guards attached to Government House and the Imperial Secretariat buildings, additions and alterations to the Duff College building to make it suitable for the accommodation of the Police of the Northern Division of the Town and a new thana at No. 72, Garden Reach, Calcutta.

(5) As regards Educational works, the "Baker Hostel" for the Muhammadan students of the Calcutta Madrasa and a boarding-house for the Hindu and Muhammadan boarders of the Bankura Zilla School.

(6) As regards works for the Medical Department, the new Surgical and Administrative blocks in the Medical College, Calcutta, and the remodelling of the Pilgrim Hospital at Puri.

(7) Under Contribution works, the extension and improvement of the Indian Museum, Calcutta.

COMMUNICATIONS

72. An arrangement was made with the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway Company that the Government share of surplus profits, when it

exceeds the expenditure on the maintenance of the Hill Cart Road, should be devoted to the improvement of the alignment of that road. This surplus had previously, under the terms of their contract, to be returned to the Company.

The construction of the new cart road in the Darjeeling district, from Jore Bungalow *via* Peshoke to the new Gurkha Cantonment at Hum, was nearly completed during the year.

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

73. The Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, were authorized to supply electric energy, at a standard pressure from 6,000 to 6,600 volts, to large consumers, for power and other purposes. It was arranged that an Imperial Standard Electrical Testing Laboratory should be established in the building occupied by the Bengal Electrical Testing Laboratory, the ultimate standards of reference and the apparatus in connection therewith remaining in the charge of the Electrical Adviser to the Government of India.

RAILWAYS.

74. 316.10 miles of nine light railways, constructed by private Administration enterprise, were subject to a certain measure of control by the Government of Bengal. The total length of railways in the Province of Bengal on the 31st of March 1911 was 4,580.52 miles, of which 112.95 miles were opened to traffic during the year, 57.21 miles being on the broad gauge, 1.44 miles on the metre gauge, and 84.30 miles on the 2' 6" gauge.

75. The Lower Ganges Bridge in the vicinity of Sara was under construction and preliminary works have to a large extent been completed. Progress of Sara Bridge. Quarters, offices and power-houses were constructed and good progress made on the earthwork of the right and left guide banks and approaches. One hundred and seven lakhs of cubic feet of stone for pitching were brought to site, and a large amount of English stores. The flood of 1910 rose to 47.85, which is two feet below the estimated maximum flood level.

76. A portion of the Kalimati-Gurumasini extension of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway from Kalimati to Onlajuri in the district of Singhbhum was completed and opened for traffic on the 1st of February 1911. Progress of Railway construction. The Barharwa-Azimganj-Katwa Railway was under construction, of which a portion from Barharwa to Dhulian in the district of Murshidabad was completed and opened for traffic on the 19th of January 1911. The Arrah-Sasaram and the Dehri-Rohtas Light Railways in the district of Shahabad, authorized for construction under the Bengal Tramways Act, III of 1883, were opened for traffic on the 6th of March and the 6th of February 1911, respectively.

Concessions were granted under the Railway Board's branch feeder line terms to Messrs. Khetter Mohon Dey & Co to construct a railway from Jessore to Jhenidah with a branch line to Kotchandpur, under the guarantee of the District Board of Jessore.

77. During the year, surveys were completed by the Bengal-Nagpur Surveys Railway for an extension from Ranchi to Lohardaga in the district

of Ranchi; and by the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway for extensions (1) from Darjeeling to Lebong, (2) from Ghum to Tukda (Ham), (3) from Siliguri to the Teesta Bridge in the district of Darjeeling, and (4) from Siliguri to Kissenganj in the district of Purnea. A reconnaissance survey was made by the East Indian Railway for a 2'0" gauge line from Hazaribagh Road Station to Hazaribagh. The Bengal Duars Railway Company completed surveys of lines (1) from Bagrakote to Sivok and (2) from Sivok to the Teesta Bridge.

Damages by
floods

78. The Bengal and North-Western Railway was breached in several places by exceptionally heavy floods in the Darbhanga district. The causes were investigated by a committee, whose recommendations are to be carried out.

CANALS.

Irrigation.
Productive
works.

79. The Major Works are (1) the Sone Canals, (2) the Orissa and Midnapore Canals, and (3) the Hijli Tidal Canal. The first two systems are used for both irrigation and navigation, and the third for navigation only. The area irrigated during the year was 892,557 acres, showing a decrease of 53,340 acres compared with the area irrigated during the preceding year. The decrease occurred chiefly on the Sone Canals, owing to the fact that a smaller area was irrigated during the *rabi* and hot weather seasons. The revenue from these four canals amounted to Rs. 25,41,054, or Rs. 1,38,211 less than that of the year 1909-10. The decrease was principally in irrigation receipts.

Protective
works

80. Of the two protective works, the Dhaka Canal, which has been completed, irrigated 6,387 acres compared with 5,627 acres irrigated during the preceding year. The total revenue from this canal amounted to Rs. 13,543 against Rs. 13,544 in the previous year. The upper half of the Tribeni Canal was completed and will be opened for irrigation from the year 1911-12.

EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS

81. The expenditure on embankments was Rs. 6,06,787 and on drainage works Rs. 2,54,293 during the year.

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

IMPERIAL FINANCE

Imperial
finance

82. The Imperial receipts amounted to Rs. 17,62,30,305, and the charges to Rs. 2,72,78,709, in comparison with Rs. 12,19,44,996 and Rs. 2,52,38,658, respectively, in the previous year. The increase in receipts was chiefly under the head of Opium, owing to higher prices obtained at the sales, and partly under Customs, due to larger imports of sugar and manufactured articles. The increase of expenditure occurred also mainly under Opium, since larger payments were made to cultivators in consequence of the improved outturn. Under Civil Works,

larger expenditure was incurred on buildings of the Telegraph, Stamps and Stationery, and Commerce and Industry Departments.

• • • OPIUM

83. In view of the diminution in poppy cultivation entailed by the restriction of exports of opium to China, the two Opium Agencies of Bihar and Benares were amalgamated, with effect from November 1910, under a single Agent with head-quarters at Ghazipur. The administrative control of the Opium Department was at the same time transferred from this Government to the Government of the United Provinces, only the arrangements for the storage of opium in Calcutta, for the conduct of the monthly sales and for the supply of excise opium to Assam, Burmah and Calcutta and its suburbs, being retained in the hands of the Revenue authorities in Bengal. The Opium Act, XIII of 1857, was amended by the Government of India in January 1911 in order to give effect to the above arrangements.

Transfer of the control of the Opium Department to the Government of the United Provinces.

84. As a result of the arrangement by which the quantity of opium exported to China will be gradually diminished, the Government of India sanctioned the abolition of poppy cultivation in Bihar, and the closure of the Opium Factory at Patna with effect from the 31st December 1911.

Abolition of poppy cultivation in Bihar and the closure of the Opium factory at Patna.

85. The number of chests of provision opium to be sold each month during the calendar year 1911 was fixed at 2,620, viz., 1,360 from the Benares and 1,260 from the Patna Factory. In consequence, however, of the separate supply of opium to the Governments of Formosa and the Straits Settlements, this number was reduced to 2,530 chests for five months, from July to November 1911, and to 2,570 chests in December 1911. Since the close of the year, the number to be sold in November and December 1911 was still further reduced on the ground that 14,000 chests per annum represents the requirements of the market outside China more correctly than 16,000 chests, the number originally fixed.

Sale of chests of provision opium in 1911.

86. Owing to the abnormal condition of the opium market in consequence of the division of the chests sold into those certified for exportation to China and those not so certified, and the sale of all chests with the option of a certificate at the auctions of January—June 1911, the Government of India, in two special cases, departed from the usual practice, by which the whole of the provision opium to be disposed of during the year is sold by public auction and is not supplied to any purchaser direct by private agreement—

Supply of opium to the Governments of the Straits Settlements and Formosa.

(i). It was arranged to supply the Government of the Straits Settlements with 100 chests of Benares opium in March and the same number in April 1911, at the average price realized for this variety of opium at the auction sale preceding each shipment.

(ii) The Government of Formosa were allowed to purchase, through their Calcutta agents, 30 chests per mensem of Benares opium during the period March to December 1911, at the average price per chest received at the sales for each month.

**Trade in opium
with China**

87. Negotiations were carried on during the year between the British and the Chinese Governments regarding the future course of the opium trade between India and China, and the following action was eventually taken:—

(a) The maximum number of chests to be exported to China during 1911 was fixed at 15,440.

(b) No opium sold in 1911 was allowed to be imported into China unless covered by a special pass:

(c) At the sales of provision opium held in the months of January to June 1911, all opium was sold subject to the proviso that, should the purchasers so desire, a special pass would be issued in respect of it permitting its importation into China.

(d) At the sales from July 1911 onwards the chests were sold in two blocks, (i) for China and (ii) for other countries.

Since the close of the year, a further agreement has been concluded with China, under the terms of which, with effect from the year 1911, that country will reduce annually for seven years its production of opium in the same proportion as the annual export from India is diminished, and such export will cease altogether in less than seven years on clear proof of the complete absence of the production of native opium in China. Moreover, no Indian opium will be conveyed to any Chinese province which can establish by clear evidence that it has effectively suppressed the cultivation and import of native opium. During 1911, the number of permits issued for shipment to China will not exceed 30,600, and this number will be progressively reduced annually by 5,100 during the remaining six years ending with 1917. In addition to the annual reduction of 5,100 chests referred to, the export of Indian opium to China during each of the years 1912, 1913 and 1914 will be further reduced by an amount equal to one-third of the total ascertained amount of uncertificated Indian opium in bond in Chinese Treaty ports and in stock in Hongkong on the date of signature of the Treaty, plus one-third of the amount of uncertificated Indian opium landed during the months of June and July 1911 at Shanghai and Canton.

EXCISE**Extension of
the Contract
Distillery
System in
Bihar**

88 The most important administrative change which took place during the year was the introduction of the contract distillery system into the districts of Patna, Gaya, Shahabad (except the Rohtas plateau and a small tract adjacent to it), Saran, the Bettiah distillery area in Champaran, Muzaffarpur (except the Sitamarhi subdivision) and Darbhanga. The change was accompanied by a heavy fall in consumption, which was attributed to the higher prices payable for contract spirit and to the circulation of various rumours in several districts calculated to prejudice the people against it.

PROVINCIAL FINANCE

89. The year opened with a balance of Rs. 91,18,000, and closed with one of Rs. 1,28,96,000. The receipts and charges amounted to Rs. 5,89,74,000 and Rs. 5,51,96,000, respectively, as against

Rs. 5,81,82,000 and Rs. 5,49,08,000 in 1909-10. The receipts under Land Revenue Adjustments and Excise increased noticeably, owing, respectively, to special grants from Imperial Revenues for expenditure on Education and Sanitation, and to the larger consumption of excisable articles which was attributed to the general prosperity. The increase of expenditure was mainly due to the formation of the Executive Council, the cost of trials in political cases and the purchase of a larger quantity of cinchona bark for the manufacture of quinine.

LOCAL FINANCE

90. The total receipts of Local Funds amounted to Rs. 95,10,413, and the charges to Rs. 93,21,799, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 31,40,058, as against an opening balance of Rs. 29,51,444. The Chuni Lal Seal's Endowment Fund and the Doranda Cantonment Fund were closed, and their balances transferred to Government.

ROAD AND PUBLIC WORKS CESSSES

91. The Bengal Cess Act was for a long time left untouched by the Legislature after its enactment in 1880. The experience of its working for over 25 years, however, showed that its provisions were defective in many respects and were susceptible of considerable improvements. The main points on which it was found that the law should be amended were—

Amendment of
the Bengal Cess
Act, 1880.

(1) to provide that cess revaluation should be carried out simultaneously with settlement work; this would furnish materials for the preparation of an accurate valuation-roll, and would save more than one-half of the cost of revaluation;

(2) to empower the Board of Revenue in lieu of the Lieutenant-Governor to order the valuation or revaluation of a district or part of a district,

(3) to provide a practical method of correcting incorrect returns filed by proprietors of estates with the help of settlement records or otherwise,

(4) to impose a penalty on owners, agents and managers of mines, quarries, railways, etc., for refusal or omission to lodge the returns required under section 72; and

(5) to empower the Divisional Commissioners in lieu of the Lieutenant-Governor to appoint and accept the resignation of members of a District Board Committee.

The Bill to amend the law was introduced in the Bengal Legislative Council in January 1910 and passed into law as Act IV (B.C.) of 1910 in April of that year.

CHAPTER VI

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

VITAL STATISTICS

92. The prevalence of plague and cholera especially in the Patna Births and and Tirhut divisions caused the death-rate to rise from 30.55 per mille in deaths

1909 to 33·10 per mille in 1910. The birth-rate, which had risen to 37·79 per mille in 1909, showed a further rise to 39·72 per mille in 1910. The total number of deaths from plague was 46,584, as compared with 11,779 in 1909, and the disease was as usual most severe in Saran. The downward tendency in the mortality from fever which began in 1909 was maintained in 1910, the total number of deaths recorded being 1,031,929, or 20·42 per mille, compared with 1,151,909, or 22·79 per mille, the average of the five years 1905-1909. On the basis of the figures for the past six years, Bihar and Chota Nagpur are markedly more feverish than Bengal and Orissa, the death-rate per mille in Bihar and Chota Nagpur being 24·02 and 20·24 respectively, and that of Bengal and Orissa being 17·82 and 12·22 respectively.

PREVENTION OF MALARIA

Constitution of the Provincial Malaria Committee

93. The Provincial Malaria Committee referred to in the report for 1909-10 was constituted during the year under review, with the following membership.—

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. The Member of the Executive Council of the Government of Bengal in the Municipal (Medical) Department. | } <i>President.</i> |
| 2. The Secretary to the Local Government in the Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings Branch). | |
| 3. The Secretary to the Local Government in the Public Works Department (Irrigation Branch) | |
| 4. Major L. Rogers, I.M.S., M.D. (Lond.), F.R.C.P. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (England), Professor of Pathology, Medical College, Calcutta. | } <i>Members</i> |
| 5. Assistant Surgeon Upendra Nath Brahmachari, M.A., M.D., Ph.D. (Calcutta), Teacher of Medicine, Campbell Medical School, Calcutta. | |
| 6. Dr. Nil Ratan Sircar, M.A., M.D., Calcutta | ... |
| 7. The Sanitary Commissioner, Bengal | ... <i>Member and Secretary.</i> |

The superior staff placed at the disposal of the Committee consists of one Indian Medical Service Officer and one Assistant Surgeon. These officers will work under the direction of the Committee, whose duty it will be, subject to the control of Government, to supervise the direction and method of the enquiries to be undertaken, to scrutinise the results ascertained from time to time, and to assist with their advice all action taken to cope with the problem of malaria in the Province.

Quinine.

94. Various minor measures were undertaken during the year in order to popularise the use of quinine. Exhibits of quinine, including samples of cinchona bark and quinine in powder and tabloid form, and demonstrating the process of the manufacture of tabloids, have been prepared for display at district exhibitions. The supply of quinine to railway employes in particularly malarious areas has been undertaken by the Companies concerned, and the experiment of supplying the drug to Government servants drawing Rs. 10 or less a month, free of cost, was tried in Purnea. Rules were framed prescribing the procedure

to be followed by Civil Surgeons for the supply of quinine to vendors through district depôts.

EMIGRATION

95. The Emigration Agent at Calcutta for British Guiana and Natal reported to Government, through the Protector of Emigrants, that good results had been obtained by the open-air treatment of cerebro-spinal meningitis, and suggested that emigrants suffering from this disease should no longer be sent to outside hospitals in accordance with the provisions of rule 68 of the Colonial Emigration Rules, but should be treated in the Colonial Emigration Depôts which offer greater facilities for such a treatment than do the outside hospitals. Government has sanctioned, on an experimental basis, the adoption of the open-air treatment of this disease in one of the Colonial Emigration Depôts for a period of one year under the direct supervision of the Medical Inspector of Emigrants. A report will be submitted at the end of that period on the degree of success which has attended the experiment.

Treatment
of cases of
cerebro-spinal
meningitis

96. Prior to the year under review, the Indian Emigration Act of 1883 (XXI of 1883) had been in force in the district of Sonthal Parganas, although its place had been taken so far as the rest of the province was concerned by the Emigration Act of 1908 (XVII of 1908). By a notification under section 3 of the Sonthal Parganas Settlement Regulation, 1872 (III of 1872), the more recent Act was declared to be in force in that district with effect from the 26th September 1910.

Extension of
the Indian
Emigration
Act XVII of
1908 to the
Sonthal
Parganas.

97. The Tea Districts Labour Supply Association of Calcutta complained against the practice of supplying to the Chief of a Native State at his request lists of emigrants from his State registered in a British district, on the ground that it hampered the recruiting operations of garden sardars, and that it was inconsistent with the Government policy of neutrality in the matter of recruitment of emigrants in Native States for Assam. The Association was informed that there seemed to be no reason why the Chief of a State should not be supplied with any information on record which he might require to enforce his own laws, and also that the supply of such information, so far from being inconsistent with the general policy of Government in such matters, was necessary in support of that policy.

Supply of lists
of emigrants
from Native
States registered
in British
districts to the
State authorities

MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS

98. The supervision hitherto exercised by the Sisters of the Clewer Community over the nursing arrangements at the Medical College Hospital, Calcutta, was withdrawn during the year, owing to the fact that the Sisterhood was unable to undertake the duties necessitated by the rapid growth of that institution. In their place it was decided to appoint one lady Superintendent on Rs. 300—350 and three Assistant Superintendents on Rs. 200—250, besides four ward sisters on Rs. 110 each a month. The additional expenditure involved, as well as the cost of an extra staff of nurses for the Prince of Wales' Hospital (which was opened during the year), and the paying-patients' ward, necessitated a revision of the arrangements under which assistance was given by

Nursing
arrangements
at the Medical
College
Hospital

Government to the Hospital Nurses' Institution, and it was accordingly agreed to contribute to the extent of Rs. 3 for every rupee collected by public subscription up to a maximum in any one year of Rs. 75,000.

VACCINATION.

Vaccination

99. It was brought to notice by the Calcutta Corporation in 1908 that the Bengal Vaccination Act (V of 1880) was not in various respects suited to the conditions prevailing in Calcutta, while it did not embody the requirements of modern medical opinion. Consequently the Act was amended during the year, primarily with reference to Calcutta and certain suburban municipalities, though power was taken to extend the amended provisions hereafter to other areas, should occasion arise. The principal changes introduced by the amending Act are, that the period after birth within which a child shall be required to be vaccinated has been reduced from one year to six months, while the period of currency of a certificate that a child is not in a fit state to be vaccinated has been curtailed from three months to one month. Certain functions which under the Act of 1880 devolved upon public vaccinators have been assigned to inspectors and sub-inspectors of vaccination, thus improving the agency by which the Act is worked, and certificates exempting a child from liability to vaccination now receive effect in the first instance for one year only, after which the case must be reconsidered.

CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

EDUCATION.

Introduction of a uniform system of remunerating Superintendents of hostels.

100. In June 1910, the Government of India sanctioned this Government's proposal that Superintendents of hostels attached to Government schools and colleges in Bengal should in all cases be given the privilege of free quarters, and that they should be remunerated according to a uniform scale. Previously, there was no definite principle on which Superintendents of hostels were remunerated. Some were granted free quarters only, some received free quarters and allowances, while others were given a capitation grant and free quarters. The Government of India have now sanctioned the grant of local allowances at the following rates to teachers who undertake the supervision of hostels and messes attached (a) to colleges and (b) to schools:—

(a) College hostels.

Number of boarders	Superintendents in the Provincial Educational Service		Superintendents in the Subordinate Educational Service		Assistant Superintendents.
		Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Twenty students or less	...	30		20	...
Between 21 and 40 students	...	45		30	...
„ 41 and 70	„	60		45	20
„ 71 and 100	„	75		60	30
„ 101 and 200	„	100		75	40
Above 200	...	125		90	50

(b) School hostels.

Number of boarders.	Allowance for Superintendents	Allowance for Assistant Superintendents.
	Rs.	Rs.
Twenty boys or less	15	
Between 21 and 30 boys	20	
„ 31 and 40 „	25	10
„ 41 and 50 „	30	15
„ 51 and 75 „	40	20
„ 76 and 100 „	50	25
„ Above 100 „	60	30

The introduction of the new system of allowances has entailed an increased recurring expenditure of about Rs. 17,800 per annum.

101. With a view to introduce a scheme for the better training of teachers in Government schools, it has been decided that for a period of five years from June 1910 full pay may be given, at the discretion of the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, to a teacher deputed from a Government school to a training college. It has also been ruled that after the period of five years shall have elapsed, no graduate officer of the teaching staff should receive any promotion beyond the grade to which he may belong, unless he shall have obtained the degree of Bachelor of Teaching or Licentiate in Teaching, and that no one should be employed in the Subordinate or Lower Subordinate Educational Services unless he gives an undertaking to go through a course of training whenever required, on the scale of remuneration that may be sanctioned from time to time.

Scheme for the better training of teachers in Government schools.

102. The Government Commercial Classes, which were opened at Calcutta in June 1903 as an experimental measure, have become increasingly popular, the numbers attending the day classes have risen, considerably and the quality of the work done has improved. These classes have, therefore, been retained on a permanent basis with effect from the 1st April 1910.

Government Commercial Classes.

103. In July 1907, training classes were instituted, as an experimental measure, at the workshops of the Civil Engineering College, Sibpur, with a view to turn out competent chauffeurs not only for service in connection with Government motor-cars, but also for employment by private individuals. As a supplementary measure it was also decided that the tools and plant required for the classes, and the services of the Foreman Instructor, who supervised the training of the pupils, should be employed in testing the efficiency of any repairs to Government cars that might be undertaken by private firms. After the scheme had worked for about three years, the classes were found to be superfluous owing to the numerous facilities provided in the workshops of Calcutta firms for the training of chauffeurs. The classes were accordingly discontinued with effect from the 16th August 1910.

Discontinuance of the motor-car classes, Civil Engineering College, Sibpur

104. The introduction of the Code of Regulations for European schools, which had been revised and published as early as November 1908, was temporarily deferred pending a consideration of the criticisms and representations to which its publication had given rise. The objections urged were carefully considered during the year under review. The Code was modified in parts, the amendments were published for

European School Code

general information, and at the same time managers of schools and all bodies and individuals interested in European education in Bengal were invited to offer any suggestions which might lead to its improvement in detail. The modifications proposed were generally approved and much valuable and suggestive criticism was offered. The Code, as finally amended in the light of the opinions received, was introduced with effect from the beginning of 1911.

Revision of curriculum of studies in vernacular training schools

105. On the recommendation of a committee specially appointed by Government, a revised curriculum of studies, which provides for the teaching of English, was introduced with effect from the session of 1911 in the first grade training schools in Bengal, and the present course of instruction was extended from two to three years. The number of scholarships tenable at each school was also redistributed over a period of three years instead of two.

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS

Bengal Library.

106. The literary activity which characterised the two preceding years was fully maintained in 1910, the number of publications received in the Bengal Library rising from 3,837 in 1909 to 4,358. Works on religious subjects continued to form a large proportion of the publications received, but reprints of works on antiquarian interest and translations were more important than original literature on this subject. Drama and Fiction appear to be declining in popular favour, and their place is being taken by historical and biographical literature and books on travel. As a result partly of the new Press Act authors ceased to discuss political matters to any large extent, and turned their attention to social, economic and educational questions.

Press.

107. The improvement in the tone of the press which began last year was fully maintained during 1910, though papers, especially those of the extremist party, such as the *Nayak*, the *Hilavadi* and the *Navyabharat*, continued to harp on the shortcomings of the existing regime and to preach doctrines which, though they cannot be characterised as open professions of extremism, were perhaps equally mischievous. The existing loyalist papers of the Indian Press are still lacking in literary ability, and this is one of the reasons why papers such as the *amk Chandrika* and the *Education Gazette*, though sensibly written and well informed on public questions, exercise so little influence over the public opinion of the country. The general improvement in the Press may be attributed partly to the Press Act. As regards the working of the Act, it is worthy of note that of the publications proscribed under the Act, a large proportion were published in Europe or America, while of the 14 newspapers proscribed, all with the exception of two, which emanated from Pondicherry, were American and European publications of a professional revolutionary type. Security under the Indian Press Act was demanded from two papers, the *Dharma* and the *Karmayogin*; in both cases the publishers failed to deposit the security, and the papers ceased to exist. The operations of the Press Act rendered press prosecutions under the Indian Penal Code unnecessary, and of the six newspapers prosecuted in 1910, five were in respect of offences committed before the passing of the new Act.

CHAPTER IX.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ECCLESIASTICAL

108. With a view to make more generally known the advantages to be derived from the registration of births and deaths (more especially among Europeans) under the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act (Act VI. of 1886), which has hitherto remained practically a dead letter, this Government has issued orders in accordance with the directions of the Government of India that, in all areas in which registration is compulsory under municipal or local laws, but in which only the fact of a birth or death has hitherto been recorded, additional details should be recorded such as (in the case of a birth) the names of the parents, their status, the date and place of birth and the sex of the child. Instructions have also been issued to Police-officers of all districts outside the Calcutta and Suburban areas to inform District and Subdivisional officers of any births and deaths that may occur among the European population within their jurisdiction. The Magistrate will then write to the person concerned and advise him to take steps to register the occurrence under the Act.

Measures for the improvement in the registration of births and deaths

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT

109. With the sanction of the Secretary of State, the Civil Veterinary Department in Bengal was reorganised, and Veterinary Assistants now constitute a Provincial cadre, the services of which can be lent to local bodies who desire to apply for them, Government bearing half the cost of itinerant assistants and one-sixth of the cost of those in charge of dispensaries at head-quarter stations.

Reorganisation of the Civil Veterinary Department.

110. In accordance with a scheme for the extension of veterinary assistance in areas outside Calcutta, which was first introduced in 1901. Government offered to contribute half the cost of the pay and allowances (other than leave allowances) of itinerant veterinary assistants employed by local bodies for rural tracts, and one-sixth of the annual maintenance charges of veterinary dispensaries established in municipalities. The remainder of the cost was to be met from local funds, and the veterinary assistants were to be servants of the local bodies under whom they worked. Several veterinary assistants were employed on these conditions, but progress was unsatisfactory; and it was obvious that the only possible course was the definite recognition of the assistants as Government servants and the elimination by this means of the inconsistencies of pay, etc., which otherwise attach to service under the various District Boards. A revised scheme was accordingly prepared on these lines and has since been sanctioned, under which veterinary assistants, like members of the Subordinate Medical Service, will be Government servants, subject to the ordinary rules of leave and pension. Their services will be lent to local bodies applying for them, but their pay and allowances will be disbursed by Government which will recover from the latter half of the average cost in the case of an itinerant

Organisation of a Subordinate Veterinary Service.

veterinary assistant, and five-sixths in that of an assistant in charge of a dispensary. Since the close of the year sixty veterinary assistants have, at the instance of the local bodies concerned, been transferred to the new service thus created.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Census.

111. Mr. L. S. S. O'Malley, I.C.S., was appointed Superintendent of Census Operations in Bengal for the Census of 1911; and the Superintendent of the Cooch Behar State and the Commissioners of the Orissa and Chota Nagpur Divisions received separate instructions with regard to the census of the Native States under their respective charges. District Census officers were appointed, and all Heads of departments were requested to place the services of their subordinates at the disposal of the Magistrates of their districts for work in connection with the census operations, so far as this could be done without interfering unduly with their ordinary duties. The final enumeration was made for the most part synchronously between the hours of 7 and 12 P.M. on the night of the 10th March 1911, the date fixed by the Government of India for the purpose. Exceptions were allowed only in selected areas in the districts of Cuttack, Singhbhum, Ranchi, Hazaribagh, Monghyr, Gaya, Shahabad and the 24-Parganas, and in the Feudatory States in Orissa, where, on account of the inaccessibility of the villages, the fear of wild animals or the inadequate supply of enumerators, the final revision of the census record was either conducted on the afternoon of the 10th March, or was spread over three days, namely, the 8th, 9th and 10th March. Special arrangements were made for the census of Calcutta, in which the preliminary enumeration was carried out on the 18th February, and the final census was taken, as elsewhere, on the 10th March, 1911.

Purchase of newspapers and periodicals by Heads of departments and other officers

112. Under the authority given by the Government of India, power was delegated to Heads of departments and other officers under the Government of Bengal to purchase newspapers and periodicals at the expense of Government, with effect from the 1st January 1911. The limit fixed in each case corresponded to the total cost of the publications already subscribed for, but Heads of departments are at liberty to re-distribute their respective grants among the officers subordinate to them.

Mr Oldham's enquiry into the system of District Administration in Madras.

113. In connection with the recommendations of the Royal Commission upon Decentralization and the general proposals of this Government for the delegation of powers, Mr. C. E. A. W. Oldham, I.C.S., was deputed to Madras for the purpose of studying the system of district administration obtaining in that Presidency. His inquiries, which began towards the end of March 1910, were conducted chiefly in the districts of Ganjam and Tinnevely, and included the head-quarters, divisional and taluk offices; he also discussed with the members of the Madras Secretariat, the Board of Revenue and district officials, the conditions and system of administration in that Presidency. His recommendations, which embraced a large variety of subjects, have been carefully considered by this Government, and effect has already been given to some of them with the modifications necessary to suit local conditions.

PART II.



THE REPORT.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1910-1911.

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CHEMICAL EXAMINER'S DEPARTMENT—		Raymond Research Laboratory	133 633
Total of cases	132 626	Civil Veterinary Department	133 634
Analysts	132 627	Dispensaries	133 635
Medico-legal cases	132 628	Staff	134 636
VETERINARY DEPARTMENT—		Breeding operations	134 637
Bengal Veterinary College	133 629	ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN, CALCUTTA—	
Glanders and Farcy Act	133 630	Buildings	134 638
		Finance and Statistics	134 639
		Free admissions	134 640

MAP.

ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL, 1910-1911.

CHAPTER I.—PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

For—

PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE COUNTRY, AREA, CLIMATE
AND CHIEF STAPLES.

HISTORICAL SUMMARY

FORM OF ADMINISTRATION

CHARACTER OF LAND TENURE SYSTEM OF SURVEYS AND
SETTLEMENTS

CIVIL DIVISIONS OF BRITISH TERRITORY.

DETAILS OF THE LAST CENSUS, TRIBES AND LANGUAGES.

See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1901-1902
PART II, PAGES 1—160, FOR 1905-1906, PART II, PAGE 1,
FOR 1908-1909, PART II PAGE 1, AND FOR 1909-1910,
PART II, PAGE 1.

Changes in the Administration

THE chief administrative reform of the year 1910-11 was the creation of an Executive Council for the Province of Bengal. The spread of education and the consequent growth of public opinion, combined with the enlargement of the Provincial Legislative Council during the preceding year, had increased the duties and responsibilities of the head of the Province to such an extent that it was difficult for him to cope with them unaided. With the object of lightening the labours of the Lieutenant-Governor as well as of strengthening his authority, without at the same time impairing the prompt exercise of his executive power, the Governor-General in Council was empowered by section 3, sub-section (1) of the Indian Councils Act, 1909 (9 Edw. 7, c. 4), to create an Executive Council in Bengal. The Council was created by a proclamation dated the 18th November 1910. The number of members was fixed at three or four. Two of the members were to be persons who had been in the service of the Crown in India for at least twelve years. The other member or members were to be either persons so qualified or persons who had resided in India for at least twelve years. The Lieutenant-Governor was authorized to overrule the Council in cases of high importance, essentially affecting the public interest and welfare. The first gentlemen to be appointed as members were—

Creation of the
Executive
Council

The Hon'ble Mr. F. A. Slacke, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble Mr. F. W. Duke, C.S.I.

The Hon'ble Rai Kisorilal Goswami Bahadur.

They assumed charge of their offices on the 19th November 1910.

Relations with Tributary States and Frontier Affairs.

COOCH BEHAR.

[Annual Administration Report of the Cooch Behar State for 1910-11.]

[Area, 1,307 square miles chief products—rice, jute, tobacco, population, 593,052 Military force, 194 men and 4 guns Annual revenue, Rs 20,91,231 No change in the Ruling Chief since last year Family of Tibetan or Dravidian origin Residence, Cooch Behar Hereditary, Maharaj Kumar Raj Rajendra Narayan.]

The Council 2. During the year the enlarged Legislative Council held two meetings, at both of which His Highness the Maharaja presided.

The work of the State Council is divided into the three following heads —

I.—General.

II.—Financial.

III.—Cooch Behar State Railway and miscellaneous.

On the executive side the State Council held 41 meetings, as against 38 in the previous year, at 3 of which His Highness presided, while on the judicial side 36 meetings were held, as against 32 during the previous year, in disposing of 44 appeals and motions, both civil and criminal.

Legislation. 3 The Cooch Behar Tenancy Bill, which had been under consideration for some time, was passed into law, and the Act came into force throughout the State on the 1st August 1910. The new Act, while it conforms to the provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act of 1882, which is the rent law of the neighbouring British districts, has been designed to protect the rights of tenants and under-tenants in the State which differ from those enjoyed in the permanently settled districts of Bengal.

Census of 1911. 4. The final total of the census of the State was 593,052. The final total of the census of 1901 was 566,973 There has, therefore, been an increase of 26,079, or 4.59 per cent. during the last 10 years.

State Railway. 5. As the revised estimates for the conversion of the Cooch Behar State Railway into metric gauge and ballasting the line amounted to Rs. 4,92,020, the State had to pay Rs. 1,15,020 during the year instead of Rs. 23,000, which was provided in the budget for 1910-1. This completed the payment of the entire estimated amount on account of the work of conversion of the railway.

Cultivation and manufacture of tobacco 6. The area under tobacco was 107 bighas, as compared with 75 in the previous year. Four varieties of tobacco were tried, namely, North Carolina, Bright Yellow and Raymond's Improved Yellow Prior from Virginia, and Mahalla and Cuban from Turkey and Cuba, respectively. The result was satisfactory, the Turkish tobacco being the best The total yield amounted to 180 maunds and 13 seers.

Crops and condition of the people. 7. The rainfall was favourable to winter rice, the yield of which varied from 14 to 16 annas. Owing to two successive good harvests, the price of common rice continued low during the year, the rates varied from Rs. 2-12 to Rs. 4-12, the higher rate prevailing for a comparatively short time. There was an improvement in the jute market and the price went so high as Rs. 9-12, the lowest rate being Rs. 4-8 The rates for tobacco continued high, varying from Rs. 10 to Rs. 20 The condition of the people was good and they sold their jute and tobacco on favourable terms.

Financial 8. The total revenue amounted to Rs. 26,94,231, as against Rs. 26,40,461 in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 53,770 The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 29,15,996, as compared with Rs. 24,54,074 in the year 1909-10, or an increase of Rs. 4,61,922, resulting in a deficit of Rs. 2,21,765 against a surplus of Rs. 1,86,387 of the preceding year. The closing balance was Rs. 14,66,929, inclusive of deposits and Government money, amounting to Rs. 6,17,082, showing an increase of Rs. 1,48,687.

Criminal justice. 9. The total number of cases reported during the year was 3,480, showing an increase of 194 cases chiefly under class V (Minor offences against property). The percentage of convictions to the total number of cognizable and non cognizable cases tried rose from 72.5 and 72.57 to 73.17 and 72.6, respectively.

10 The Subdivisional Higher English schools continued to make satisfactory progress. The number of pupils attending them rose from 520 to 624 and the percentage of attendance from 77 to 80. The returns for the primary schools show a gain of 6 in number and of 773 in attendance, but the most satisfactory feature of their progress during the year was the success attained by their pupils at the Lower Primary Scholarship Examination. The number of candidates rose from 500 to 677 and the number of passes from 337 to 521. Excluding the Sunity College, there were 19 girls' schools in the State, and these had a roll of 352 pupils against 15 schools and 302 pupils of the previous year. The Sunity College had 148 pupils on its rolls, an increase of 3 pupils. The students of the Victoria College did creditably at the various University examinations at which they appeared.

11. The year was a healthy one. There was no epidemic of cholera as in the previous year. The measures for the prevention of cholera, more especially the provision of good drinking-water throughout the State, were actively carried out, and a grant of Rs. 10,000 was mainly devoted to sinking wells. The serious import of a recent outbreak of *kalu-azar* in Kristopore taluk, which is on the borders of Goalpara, was recognised by the State Council, and measures were adopted to prevent the disease from spreading to other parts of the State. Every effort was made to gain the co-operation of the people which is essential to the success of such measures. Another important measure that may exercise a far-reaching influence is being carried out tentatively in the Tufanganj subdivision, where quinine is distributed at the *hats* for the prevention and treatment of malaria, and proposals are under consideration for extending the scheme to other subdivisions on the principle that the people shall only pay the actual cost of the drug.

Public health.

POLITICAL STATES OF CHOTA NAGPUR.

[Report on these States for 1910-11 by the Commissioner of Chota Nagpur]

[Two States — (1) Seraikela, area, 449 square miles, population, 1,06,125, total receipts, Rs 1,14,220, Chief, Raja Udit Narayan Singh Deo Bahadur, aged 62 (2) Kharsawan, area, 153 square miles, population, 38,409, total receipts, Rs. 82,697. The Chief, Kumar Sriman Chandra Singh Deo, aged 20, ranks as a Thakur, and having completed his education at Rajkumar College, Raipur, is now undergoing training in the details of administrative work. The States pay no tribute and have no military force. They are both under the direct supervision of the Deputy Commissioner of Singhbhum. Both Chiefs are cadets of the Porahat family.]

12. The Seraikela State was administered by its Chief, while the Kharsawan State, owing to the minority of its Chief, continued under Government management. The Chief of Kharsawan having completed his education at the Rajkumar College, Raipur, is now being trained in details of administrative work.

Administration.

13. In spite of the adoption of a procedure similar to certificate procedure in British India for the realization of arrear rents and cesses, the collections in Seraikela decreased from 60.3 per cent in the previous year to 51.4 per cent. in the year under review. The short collections are reported to be due to the discontent of the raiyats who have not yet become reconciled to the settlements and to the orders of Government regarding produce rents. In Kharsawan the percentage of collections rose from 86.9 to 96.9. The receipts under excise showed an increase in both States owing to the cheapness of *mahua* and owing to an increase in the retail vending-fee from Rs. 3 to Rs. 5 in Kharsawan.

Revenue

14. The rice crop in Seraikela was 81 per cent., and an equally good crop was harvested in Kharsawan. A large number of coolies emigrated from Kharsawan to Kalimati to work on the railway extension or at Messrs. Tata and Company's Iron and Steel works.

Material condition of the people

15. The number of offences decreased in both the States, though the number of persons brought to trial showed a slight increase. In Seraikela, civil cases were disposed of more rapidly than in previous year, the average duration of civil cases being 69 days, as against 76 in the previous year. In Kharsawan, the duration of civil cases also showed a decrease from 43 days to 35.

Administration of justice.

16. The construction of the new jail at Seraikela had to be deferred owing to the expenditure incurred by the Chief for the marriage of his

Jails

**PHYSICAL
AND POLITICAL
GEOGRAPHY**

Forests.

grand-daughter. This work will, it is hoped, be soon carried out, as the existing building, though clean and healthy, is not very secure.

17 The income from forests in Seraikela increased from Rs. 4,649 in 1909-10 to Rs. 16,422 in 1910-11. A scheme for the preservation of the forests of Kharsawan has been sanctioned by Government, and steps are being taken to stop reckless and wasteful cutting.

TRIBUTARY AND FEUDATORY STATES OF ORISSA.

[Report on the States for 1910-11 by the Commissioner of Orissa.]

[Number of States, 24, aggregate area, 24,046 square miles, population, 3,798,038, gross income, Rs. 48,14,585.]

**Administration
and Land
Revenue.**

18 During the year under report, the States of Bonai, Hindol, Kalahandi, Keonjhar, Nayagarh and Rairakhol continued under the administration of Government. The close attention given to land revenue administration has borne fruit in the shape of better collections in almost every instance, 17 out of 24 States showing marked improvement, five maintaining an already high standard and only two showing a falling off. Collections were readily and easily made, coercive measures not having had to be adopted; and though this may be partially accounted for by the general prosperity of the year, there can be little doubt that a still more important factor was the careful revision of the tauzi demand and the elimination therefrom of irrecoverable and fictitious items.

Settlement.

19 During the year under report settlement operations were actually in progress in the following States, viz., Gangpur, Kalahandi, Patna, Bonai, Hindol, Tigiria, Khondpara, Sonpur and Bamra.

In Gangpur State the settlement operations in the Khalsa area were concluded and the revised assessment fully collected before the close of the year, operations in the zamindari portion of the State being concluded shortly after the close of the year. In the other States fair progress appears to have been made, though operations in Patna were delayed to some extent by the appointment of the Settlement Officer as Census Officer, and in Bonai by the illness and ultimate breakdown of the Settlement Officer, in whose place the services of a Deputy Collector with settlement experience have been lent by Government since the close of the year.

Besides the nine States named above, preliminary arrangements for the resettlement of Keonjhar State were completed during the year.

Crime

20. There was an increase of 544 in the number of cases reported to the police as compared with the previous year, but the absence of serious crime, particularly dacoity of a serious character, is a satisfactory feature of the year's work. To this increase 14 States contributed, 7 States on the other hand showing a decrease. In Patna the increase (202) was mainly due to charges necessary to enforce sanitary rules at head-quarters, elsewhere it was all under petty crime. There appears every reason to believe that the increase in the number of cases reported is the direct result of the improvements effected in the Police force and in police administration generally, and further improvement may confidently be looked for from the various measures of improvement and reform which have been taken in hand particularly in connection with the chaukidari force.

**Administration
of justice**

21. The increase of 560 in the cases brought to trial during 1910-11 over the corresponding figures for 1909-10 was due partly to the increase in the number of cases reported to the police, and partly to increased litigation over petty matters owing to enhanced prosperity. Civil suits, on the other hand, fell from 14,381 in 1909-10 to 12,288 in 1910-11, but even so the total was larger than in 1908-09. This increase is not unexpected, improved means of communication, increased prosperity of the people and better methods of judicial administration combine to render litigation in the Civil Courts more popular, except in very lean years. It is satisfactory to note that, taking the 24 States as a whole, the duration of criminal and civil cases was less than in the previous year, the average length of police and complaint cases being 7.93 and 16.52 days, as against 11 and 20.65 days respectively in 1909-10, while the time

occupied by civil cases contested and uncontested decreased from 69.4 and 40.96 to 60.91 and 30.8 respectively. The States of Athgarh, Baramba and Bopai showed the most marked improvement in respect of all classes of cases. Narsingpur, on the other hand, showed an unsatisfactory deterioration.

22. Progress in the shape of new and suitable buildings continues to be made, and there was also considerable improvement in the development of jail industries. Except in Kalahandi, where there was a bad outbreak of dysentery in an epidemic and apparently particularly severe form, the health of the prisoners confined in the various State jails was, judged by the death-rate, fairly satisfactory. The dysenteric epidemic at Kalahandi appears to call for special investigation, as the death-rate in that jail during the last three years, in particular from bowel complaints and dysentery, has been disproportionately high. **Jails.**

23. The total income from forests amounted to Rs. 7,15,905, as against Rs. 6,88,183 in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 27,722. This increase was more than accounted for by the realizations on account of the new "fuel cess" in Keonjhar, which amounted to Rs. 36,698. The Agency Forest Officer, whose appointment was sanctioned in October 1910, has begun to do good work. A satisfactory feature of this branch of the administration is that there is a general awakening of interest in forests throughout the State, and that the people generally are beginning to realise the need for conservation and to be less opposed than formerly to the restrictions which are now being put on their uncontrolled use, or rather abuse, of the forests. **Forests.**

24. The total excise revenue of the States increased by Rs. 73,139, which was shared by 18 out of the 24 States. In comparison with the surrounding districts of British India the excise revenue is still very low and appears to be capable of expansion. Though the total population of the States is greater than that of the four districts of Puri, Balasore, Angul and Sambalpur, the excise revenue in the former is only about $\frac{1}{5}$ th of that obtained in the latter. Excise offences, on the other hand, are considerably more numerous in the States than in British territory. **Excise.**

25. The total expenditure on public works during the year under review was Rs. 9,54,447 against Rs. 9,34,521, showing an increase of Rs. 19,926. **Public works.**

The steady increase in expenditure on public works during the last few years is indicative of the earnest desire of the Chiefs to properly provide for public works in their States so far as their finances permit, and, as the tangible proof of such desire, a very marked improvement is noticeable all round in the means of communication and the public buildings. The appointment of an Agency Engineer early in 1911 should prove of material assistance to the States which make use of his services.

26. The rainfall during the year was adequate and favourably distributed and continued to the end of October, with the result that bumper crops were obtained in all the States, except over a small area on the banks of the Tel river between Kalahandi and Patna where the rice crop was damaged by floods and insects. **Material condition of the people**

27. The year was exceptionally healthy, except in Kalahandi, where there was an outbreak of dysentery. In spite of the healthiness of the year, there was an increase of 41,638 in the number of patients attending the dispensaries, a fact which testifies to the growing popularity of these institutions. The rapid and steady improvement in the spread and popularity of vaccination noticed in the last five years was maintained, and more than one-third of the entire population of the States have been protected. The figures of the State of Keonjhar are particularly satisfactory, the number of re-vaccinations being 32,672 out of a total of 163,162 for the 24 States. **Public health.**

28. The decrease of 24 in the number of schools was due to the policy which has been adopted of concentrating the smaller schools into larger central schools with better accommodation and more efficient staff. The number of pupils increased by 3,401 in boys' schools and 628 in girls' schools, while the total expenditure increased by Rs. 24,264. **Education.**

29. The census of the States was taken concurrently with the census of British India, and the Chiefs and their officers spared no pains to secure accurate and quick results. The total population showed an increase of 624,643 or 19.68 per cent. The increase was most marked in the less densely populated States; **Census.**

and in Bonai and Patna increases of 52·16 and 47·19 per cent. respectively were recorded.

Condition of the People.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration, 1910-11]

General

30. During the year the general condition of the agricultural population reached a comparatively high degree of prosperity. Successive good harvests caused a general fall in the prices of the staple food-crops, while, as a consequence of the general increased demand for labour resulting from increased industrial activity throughout the province, wages remained at their former high level. The development of industrial enterprise and competition helped to lower the prices of manufactured articles of common use. No permanent emigration or immigration took place during the year.

Wages of labour.

31. In the Burdwan division wages remained at a very high level with an upward tendency. In the Presidency division also the level was high owing to the demand for labour in the mills and factories and on the railways. In the Patna division, although labourers' wages remained practically unchanged, the struggle for higher wages continued, mainly as a consequence of the general rise in the standard of living. In the Tirhut division, where the agricultural labourers are generally paid in kind, there was, with the fall in prices, a corresponding decrease in the money value of wages. In the Bhagalpur division the wages of labour in money and in kind remained almost stationary. In the Orissa division also the rates of wages remained practically stationary.

CHAPTER II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

Realization of the Revenue

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Lower Provinces for the year 1910-11]

32. The number of estates on the revenue-roll rose to 127,797, the greater part of the difference (1,170) as compared with the previous year, being due to partitions. The current demand of the year was Rs. 1,90,63,617, or Rs. 79,166 in excess of that of the previous year. The percentage of total collections on the total demand amounted to 97.31, a figure in excess of those recorded during the three preceding years. The percentages of total collections on current demands and of current collections on current demands, amounting, respectively, to 99.95 and 97.96, fell short, however, of the previous year's figures, 101.18 and 98.22. The remissions amounted to Rs. 36,785, or Rs. 7,446 less than in 1909-10.

Collection of
land revenue.

33. In comparison with the previous year there was a large decrease in the number of defaults in the payment of land revenue, this was due to improved agricultural conditions. Out of 11,949 estates, shares and interests which became liable to sale for the non-payment of Government revenue, as compared with 12,998 of the previous year, 667, or 5.5 per cent., were actually sold, as against 675, or 5.1 per cent., in the previous year. Of the total number sold, 407 were whole estates and 260 shares. The amount realized by sale was Rs. 2,88,187, or six times the Government revenue of the properties sold, as against seven times in the previous year. Out of 144 appeals preferred to Commissioners against sales, 41 were successful, while recommendations for the annulment of sales on the ground of hardship were made to Government in 16 cases.

Defaults and
sale law

34. The number of petty estates of which the land revenue was redeemed during the year was 336. Most of these were permanently-settled holdings in the Government estates of Calcutta and the suburbs, of which the total annual revenue amounted to Rs. 800, while the aggregate price realized on redemption was Rs. 23,559.

Redemption of
land revenue.

35. The total collections of miscellaneous revenue, including receipts from forest lands in Government estates, amounted to Rs. 13,63,109 as against Rs. 14,12,819 in the preceding year. Out of this, Rs. 9,57,438 represented recoveries of survey and settlement charges which were paid in full. There were fewer sales of Government estates, and the capitalized value of land revenue abated under the Land Acquisition Act was less than in the preceding year.

Miscellaneous
revenue

36. Fourteen estates, covering an area of 366 acres in the Burdwan, Presidency, Bhagalpur and Orissa divisions, were sold during the year for Rs. 944 subject to a total revenue demand of Rs. 303. In addition to the above, four plots of land with an area of 36 acres were sold for Rs. 2,849, subject to a revenue demand of Rs. 2,843, and eight plots covering an area of 32 acres were sold revenue-free for Rs. 5,454.

Sale of Govern-
ment estates

37. As compared with the previous year, there was an increase of over Rs. 30,000 in the value of land revenue and cesses remitted by means of money-orders during the year under review. This improvement is to some extent due to attempts made to popularize the system, by removing as far as possible the chief impediments that retard its expansion. It is hoped that, as its advantages become more widely known, the timidity of the public and their aversion to entrust the payments to postal agency will gradually disappear. There was an increase in the number and value of rent money-orders from 45,635 and Rs. 7,77,068 in the preceding year to 49,509 and Rs. 8,50,025, respectively, in the year under report.

Payment of
revenue and
rent by money-
orders.

38. The current cess demand (Rs. 78,26,215) showed an increase of over Rs. 1,86,000, due chiefly to valuations and revaluations and to the assessment of mines and forests, the increase was most marked in the Bhagalpur, Sonthal Parganas and Manbhum districts. The percentage of total collections on the

Road and
Public Works
Cesses

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

current demand was also satisfactory, being 101.8 as against 99.4 and 98.9 recorded during the two previous years, the good harvests of the year and the consequent ease with which payments were generally made account for the increase. The only districts in which the collections were considerably below the standard of 100 per cent were Palamau, Ranchi and the Sonthal Parganas. The chief features of the administration of the Cess Act during the year were (a) the introduction in the Hazaribagh district of the new procedure laid down in Chapter IIA of that Act, whereby revaluation is carried on in combination with settlement operations, and (b) the completion of important revaluations in North Monghyr and South Bhagalpur.

Certificate procedure.

39. The number of certificates issued on account of all demands, inclusive of cess, shows a slight decrease from 135,315 to 134,839; the decrease is especially noticeable in connection with the realization of arrears of rent due from Khas Mahal and Waid's Estate tenants, and of certain demands under section 7(1) of the Public Demands Recovery Act, 1895. The number of cases disposed of amounted to 135,928, or 79.3 per cent. of the total number for disposal, as compared with 138,742, or 79.2 per cent. disposed of during the preceding year. The number of cases pending at the close of the year was 35,333, of which 8,774 were more than six months old. The question of amending the Public Demands Recovery Act is still under consideration.

Land Registration.

40. The applications under the Bengal Land Registration Act for registration of succession to proprietary interests in land by purchase, inheritance, gift, or otherwise numbered 58,688, of which 45,012 were granted before the close of the year. The number of old interests removed and new interests recorded were 56,231 and 65,013, respectively. At the close of the year the total number of recorded interests in the Province (excluding Sambalpur) was 1,085,729, as against 1,076,947 at the beginning. In Sambalpur 150 mutations were registered under section 125 of the Central Provinces Land Revenue Act, XVIII of 1881. Transfer lists were, on the whole, regularly supplied by other offices and courts, though complaints were made in some districts. In most of the districts the registers are reported to be in good condition. The Land Registration establishments were made permanent in all except a few districts. The expenditure on account of Land Registration work amounted to Rs. 15,087, as against Rs. 13,263 in the preceding year. The fees realized under section 64 amounted to Rs. 2,561, as against Rs. 2,965 in 1909-10.

Surveys.

[Report of the Survey Department, Bengal, for the year ending the 30th September 1910]

Outturn for the year.

41. The traverse survey covered an area of 3,635 square miles, and exceeded the outturn of the previous year by 270 square miles. The revision survey of Calcutta was in progress and proved a difficult task. An experimental survey was made in a small portion of the Ganges *diara* to show how far the boundaries of villages according to previous surveys could be identified and demarcated with reference to permanent marks placed at a safe distance from the high banks of the river. The experiment proved instructive and will be continued throughout the *diara* area. The resulting maps, which will show, combined on one sheet, village boundaries according to the Revenue Survey and later surveys, and will enable these to be laid down from the permanent marks, are expected to be of much assistance to all revenue and civil courts which may have to deal in future with *diara* disputes.

Administrative and other changes.

42. No administrative changes were made during the year. A scheme for the improvement of the pay and prospects of the ministerial and menial staff of the Survey of India transferred to Bengal was submitted by the Director of Surveys. Proposals on the subject have been submitted for the sanction of the Government of India.

Land Records and Settlements.

[Annual Report of the Director of Land Records for the year ending the 30th September 1910, and Land Revenue Administration Report for the year ending 31st March 1911, for minor settlements under the control of District Officers and Commissioners of Divisions]

General.

43. As in the previous year, the operations of the Settlement Department consisted of—the settlement of raiyati rents and of land revenue in temporarily-

settled estates; the preparation of a record-of-rights and the settlement of all raiyati rents in permanently-settled estates in the Sonthal Parganas, the preparation of a record-of-rights, with the decision of all agrarian disputes and the settlement of fair rents on the application of landlords or tenants, in permanently-settled tracts other than those of the Sonthal Parganas, and the revision of the cadastral survey and record-of-rights in the temporarily-settled portion of Orissa, with experimental maintenance of the record in a selected area.

The work lay in seventeen districts, and the area cadastrally surveyed during the year, exclusive of 1,579 square miles of revision survey in Orissa, was 3,474 square miles, as against 3,378 square miles in the previous year. Records were finally published in respect of 4,302 square miles, as against 4,234 square miles in 1908-09. Without taking into account the revision work in Orissa, operations over 3,718 square miles were finished during the year. The total area for which a record-of-rights has been completed in Bengal under the supervision of the Director of Land Records is now 51,392 square miles, and the average annual outturn during the last 24 years has been 2,141 square miles.

44. Effect was given during the year to the proposals which had been submitted to the Government of India in the preceding year for the reduction of the Bihar party and for starting a new party to take up the survey and record-of-rights of the districts of Bengal proper, commencing with the district of Midnapore. Administrative and other changes

45. The settlement of land revenue in the Majnamutha and Jallamutha estates in the district of Midnapore was practically completed. Land revenue settlements.

46. Operations not primarily undertaken with a view to the settlement of rent or revenue were in progress on a large scale in Bihar, the Sonthal Parganas and Chota Nagpur, and on the recommendation of Mr. M. C. McAlpin, I.C.S., who had been deputed to enquire into the condition of the Sonthal population outside the Sonthal Parganas, operations for a survey and the preparation of a record-of-rights were commenced in the Rampur Hât subdivision of the district of Birbhum. Satisfactory progress was made during the year in all these operations. The cadastral survey work of the Settlement Department was examined by the Director of Surveys, who found that in accuracy and finish the maps deserved commendation. Other settlements

47. The survey and the preparation of a record-of-rights of South Bihar Monghyr were practically brought to a close.

The commutation of produce rents under section 40 of the Bengal Tenancy Act is a very important item of work in South Bihar, and particularly in South Monghyr. Of the cases disposed of during the year, commutation was allowed in 6,223 and disallowed in 585 cases. The investigations made were thorough, and in 62 out of 76 appeals the judgment of the lower court was upheld. In Shahabad, the tract dealt with was small, and although a considerable area is still under produce rent, no disputes of importance have so far been raised regarding either the system of rent or the share of the landlord.

The following table shows the results of rent settlements in the Bihar districts by compromise under section 109C, and by regular proceedings under section 105, of the Bengal Tenancy Act.—

Tract under settlement	UNDER SECTION 109C.			UNDER SECTION 105			
	Number of tenants.	Rent according to landlord.	Rent settled by compromise.	Number of tenants	Former rental	New rental.	Enhancement per cent
		Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.	
South Monghyr ...	19,467	2,35,083	2,19,424	977	21,630	23,521	8.7
Patna district	7,960	1,26,007	1,20,189	605	4,753	5,423	14.0
Shahabad ...	362	7,124	7,091	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND

Sonthal Parganas

It is a matter of satisfaction that so much use is being made of the provisions of section 109C of the Bengal Tenancy Act, which was designed to remedy strained relations between landlords and tenants.

48. The survey and the preparation of a record-of-rights in the district of the Sonthal Parganas were completed during the year. The operations were begun in the autumn of 1898, and, during the 12 years over which they extended, maps and records have been prepared for over 5,000 square miles. The experience gained has led to the passing of three Regulations to amend the Sonthal Parganas Settlement Regulation III of 1872 and Rent Regulation II of 1886. The rent of every tenant and headman in this large area has been settled, and the respective rights of landlord, headman and raiyat in every village have been clearly defined. Government, as the proprietor of the Damin-i Koh estate, has gained an increase of revenue amounting to about Rs. 90,000 at an expenditure of 2½ lakhs of rupees; and private proprietors have also obtained material enhancements of their rent-rolls by the assessment of new lands reclaimed since the first settlement. Rent rates are nevertheless still low. The fact that the rents settled have, in all cases, been cheerfully paid shows that the new assessment is moderate. The system of administration in the Sonthal Parganas is peculiarly dependent on the record-of-rights, and in this respect it is now admirably equipped.

Chota Nagpur

49. The survey and the preparation of a record-of-rights in the district of Ranchi were also completed during the year. The operations in Ranchi were originally started with the object of discovering and removing the causes, economic and agrarian, which had led to the Birsā rising of 1901. Upon the facts collected in the earlier part of these operations, the Chota Nagpur Landlord and Tenant Procedure Act of 1879 was amended in 1903, mainly with the immediate object of removing the special grievances of the Mundari *khuntkattidars*, and defining and protecting their status. The immediate result of the mitigation of these grievances was the disappearance of the agrarian agitation which had prevailed in the Munda country for many years and had, from time to time, led to outbreaks of violence, of which the last occurred in 1901. With the progress of the settlement operations, the materials were accumulated for a general revision of the local agrarian law, which was effected by the passing of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act of 1908. As a result of the application of this Act to the evidence afforded by the record-of-rights, the burdens of litigation and of general administration have decreased enormously, and there is now abroad a feeling of security in the enjoyment of agrarian rights.

The settlement of fair rents has formed a very small item of work in Chota Nagpur. The total number of tenants for whom rents have been settled in the district of Ranchi is 598, and their rents have been raised from Rs. 1,028 to Rs. 1,516, or by 24 per cent., while in the Dhalbhum estate in Singhbhum the rents of 225 tenants have been raised from Rs. 929 to Rs. 1,371, or by 47 per cent.

Minor settlements

50. Owing to the unsatisfactory state of its rent-roll, the Mokampur Ward's estate, a compact block of 27 square miles in the district of Jessore, was brought under survey and settlement; work was also commenced in two revenue-free villages in Killa Patia in the district of Cuttack. In Killa Bishunpur, in which survey and the preparation of a record-of-rights had been undertaken in the preceding year under section 101-(2)(b) of the Bengal Tenancy Act, the records were attested, but, owing to friction between landlords and tenants, rents were not fully ascertained. The settlement of revenue free estates in Banki in the district of Cuttack was completed during the year. Minor operations under Chapter X of the Bengal Tenancy Act, which were under the supervision of Commissioners during the year ending the 31st March 1911, covered an aggregate area of 13,477 acres of Government estates and 57,394 acres of Zamindari estates.

Recovery of costs

51. The work of recovery of costs in South Bhagalpur, which had been postponed in the preceding year owing to the failure of crops, was successfully carried out and only a balance of Rs. 17,809, out of a total demand of nearly 3½ lakhs of rupees, remained uncollected at the end of the year. Of the total demand of 5½ lakhs in South Monghyr, Rs. 4,64,335 were collected. The balance was practically all due from big landlords and

estates under the management of the Court of Wards, to whom special concessions were allowed. In Ranchi costs were recovered over an area of 856 square miles, and Rs. 1,10,159 were realized out of a demand of Rs. 1,11,507. A sum of Rs. 1,33,403 out of a total demand of Rs. 1,35,731 was realized in the district of Singhbhum.

52. During the past year the work of revision of the survey and record-of-rights in Orissa was extended to the district of Puri, and the total area now covered by the operations is 5,173 square miles. The progress made is satisfactory. Disputes between landlords and tenants regarding rents of reclaimed lands were for the most part settled amicably at attestation, and the cases of this nature instituted under section 105 of the Bengal Tenancy Act were also usually settled by compromise. A considerable amount of commutation of rents is being done in the course of the revision operations. Up to the close of September 1910, 2,604 applications had been received in the districts of Cuttack and Balasore, but only 479 had been disposed of. A large percentage of these was disallowed on grounds to which exception cannot be taken.

Revision settlements

53. The experiment in annual maintenance of the record undertaken in the Sadar subdivision of the district of Balasore in the previous year was extended to other parts of the district and covered an area of 1,600 square miles. The Director of Land Records is of opinion that, if a trustworthy and properly attested record of annual changes is to be prepared, the present staff must be greatly increased, and that the cost will then be prohibitive. No final decision has been reached regarding this important question.

Maintenance of records

The field work of the land records staff in Sambalpur was, on the whole, satisfactory. The mutation offices at Bettiah, Mahnar and Hajipur, established under the Land Records Maintenance Act of 1895, continued to be unprofitable and unsuccessful. The maintenance of estate records was fair in Government estates, but was unsatisfactory in Wards' estates. The check of rent-rolls appears to have been adequate in both classes of estates.

54. The tendency to use the cadastral survey maps and record-of-rights, whenever their utility is apparent is on the increase. These records are, as a matter of course, utilized by civil courts in suits for arrears of rents and possession; and enquiries show that the criminal courts have found the records a great help in deciding cases under the Indian Penal Code in which there have been disputes between the parties as to possession of land.

Utilization of land records.

55. More attention was paid to the inspection and maintenance of boundary marks, and the work done during the year was satisfactory in almost all cases.

Boundary marks.

Waste Lands.

[Land Revenue Administration Report, 1910-11]

56. In the Sundarbans of the 24-Parganas and Khulna districts the number of current leases, granted under the rules of 1853, was the same as in the two previous years, namely, one hundred and thirty-one. The revenue payable under them is Rs. 1,32,222. Under the rules for grants to large capitalists there were 188 leases in the 24-Parganas, covering an area of 344,263 acres. The rent payable under them is Rs. 58,292, rising ultimately to Rs. 2,35,111.

Leases of waste lands.

The Frasiganj estate in the 24-Parganas Sundarbans, with an area of 9,440 acres, was settled during the year with Maharaja Manindra Chandra Nandi of Cossimbazar under a special lease for a period of 40 years with effect from 1st December 1910. The present rent is Rs. 2,500, which will eventually rise to Rs. 30,340 per annum.

57. The raiyatwari system of settlement of waste lands in the Sundarbans having been abandoned, a set of revised rules for the grant of leases to capitalists, subject to certain safeguards, has been drawn up and is under consideration.

Rules for granting leases

58. Of the 17 estates resumed in the 24-Parganas (including Saugor Island) eight instead of four, as reported last year, have been retained under direct management.

Resumed estates

Government Estates.

[Land Revenue Administration Report for 1910-11]

Number and management

59. The total number of estates under direct management, including estates of private individuals, was 934 with a current demand of Rs. 27,68,091. The percentage of cost of management on the current demand was 8.1.

The tahsil circles of the Diamond Harbour subdivision in the district of the 24-Parganas were reconstituted, and in the Sadar subdivision of the Gaya district cash rents were substituted for produce rents in a large number of tenancies.

Improvements

60. A sum of Rs. 4,22,585 was allotted for management and for agricultural, sanitary and miscellaneous improvements. The total expenditure on miscellaneous and sanitary improvements rose from Rs. 1,15,456 to Rs. 1,67,871, the unexpended balance for the year under review being Rs. 10,017. The Board of Revenue is considering a scheme for the allotment of funds for improvements based on a classification of estates according to the nature of the improvements to be carried out.

Education.

61. The total expenditure on education in the estates exceeded the grant of Rs. 41,860 by over Rs. 6,000, the excess being met from the primary education and local grants. Generally both schools and pupils increased in number, the increase of pupils being most marked in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions. Consistent endeavours were made in the Government estates in the districts of Palamau, Singhbhum and Shahabad to promote the education of the aboriginal tribes.

Roads and communications

62. The actual expenditure on roads and communications amounted to Rs. 1,34,931, which exceeded the $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent grant by over Rs. 78,000. The excess was met from district boards, municipal or other local funds.

Condition of raiyats

63. The raiyats in the Government estates shared in the general agricultural prosperity of the province. Their condition was, on the whole, most satisfactory even after allowance is made for the loss of life caused by plague in the districts of the Patna and Tihut Divisions. In Gaya the market was unfavourable to tenants producing lac and *mahu* in the south of the district.

Wards' and Attached Estates.

[Report on the Administration of Wards' and Attached Estates for the year 1910-11]

Number of estates and payment of Government demands

64. The number of estates under management at the close of the year 1910-11 was 202, as compared with 213 at the close of the preceding year. Over the whole province there was an improvement in the payment of revenue and cesses, 95.9 per cent. of which were realized by Government as against 94 per cent. in the preceding year. The Tagore estate in the 24-Parganas continued to be the worst defaulter in this respect, but it is understood that the local office is having taken every step possible for the realization of the arrears.

Rent and cesses due to superior landlords

65. There has been a continuous falling off in the payment of these dues since 1908-09. The total unpaid balance under this head, at the close of the year under review, was Rs. 2,04,478. The Utterpara estate, in the district of Hooghly, was alone responsible for Rs. 65,318, or about one-third of the total amount. The mortgages on the various properties of this estate are extremely complicated. Since the close of the year the Board of Revenue, with the assent of the proprietor, has released the estate.

Collection of rents and cesses

66. The total collections fell to 93.6 per cent. of the current demand from 97.9 per cent. realized during the previous year. The fall is mainly due to poor collections in the Dumiaon and the Surajpura (No. 1) estates in Shahabad, and in the Bahadurpur estate in the district of Monghyr, the fall in these collections was unavoidable.

Balances of rents and cesses due to estates

67. The outstanding balances under this head were reduced during 1910-11 by more than nine lakhs of rupees. The progress made by Managers in writing off fictitious and time-barred arrears has fallen much behind expectations, but the disentanglement of the arrears from the balance in every tenant's account and the preparation of voluminous remission statements

is a laborious process. In the Maksudpur estate in Gaya, the Sonbarsa estate in Bhagalpur and the Janbar estate in the 24-Parganas considerable progress was made during the year in reducing the balances. The year was marked by a large increase in the number of certificates filed and suits instituted on behalf of wards' estates. As regards the former, the number of disposals was substantially less than the number of certificates filed, though the amount realized (44·6 per cent. of the demand covered by the certificates) shows an improvement upon the percentage (42·8) recorded during the previous year. The recoveries by civil suits amounted to 31 per cent. of the amount decreed; this result is practically the same as that attained during the previous year.

68. The total liabilities at the beginning of the year amounted to Rs. 2,98,26,796, of which Rs. 34,27,535 were paid. The percentage of payment is less than in the two previous years, namely, 11·4 as compared with 16·3 in 1908-09 and 15·7 in 1909-10. The attention of the Board of Revenue has been drawn to the desirability of releasing such estates as are found to be hopelessly involved. Payment of debts

69. The cost of management, which averaged 11·1 per cent. of the current demand during the year 1909-10, was reduced to 10·6 per cent. during the year under report. The standard of 10 per cent. was observed in the Bhagalpur and the Chota Nagpur divisions, and in the Presidency, Patna and Tirhut divisions the expenditure under this head represented less than 11 per cent. of the current demand. Management charges

70. The total amount spent on works of improvement increased from 7 per cent. of the net income in 1909-10 to Rs. 6,19,725, or 10 per cent., during 1910-11. Agricultural experiments conducted in the various estates during the year were, on the whole, attended with good results. Cattle-breeding operations were carried on successfully in the Sripur farm belonging to the Hatwa estate. In the Bettiah estate a new veterinary dispensary was opened and increased attention was paid to the improvement of the breed of country cattle. Improvements.

71. The arrangements made for the education of the wards and the results attained continued, on the whole, to be satisfactory. Education of the wards

• Revenue and Rent-paying Classes.

Land Revenue Administration Report, 1910-11 Divisional Miscellaneous Reports, 1910-11]

72. The Bengal Tenancy Act was in force in the greater part of the Province and continued to work satisfactorily. The Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, which is as yet imperfectly understood by the aborigines of the division, and is therefore being cautiously administered, has on the whole yielded excellent results. A Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to landlord and tenant in the districts of Cuttack, Puri and Balasore of the Orissa division was prepared and submitted to the Government of India in September 1910. The general principles have been approved by that Government, and the Bill has been introduced in the Bengal Legislative Council. Tenancy Acts

73. The use of rent-receipt forms printed in Government presses is practically confined to estates managed by Government. Manuscript receipts and even palm-leaf receipts are said to be still used in Balasore and Puri. The withholding of rent-receipts and the levy of *abwabs* and other illegal exactions have by no means ceased, but it is satisfactory to observe that the extension of settlement operations and the gradual spread of education are having a salutary effect in encouraging the tenants to learn their rights and to resist illegal demands. A few cases were instituted in which fines were imposed for failure to grant receipts in the prescribed form, but the number of such cases does not adequately indicate the prevalence of the practice. Rent-receipts

74. No change in the local jurisdiction of the various rent laws administered by Revenue Courts took place during the year. In the Orissa division 37,662 suits of all kinds were instituted during the year as against 39,579 in the preceding year, a falling off shared more or less by all the districts of the division and attributable to good harvests. In the Chota Nagpur division Rent-suits

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7,812 suits for arrears or of rent were instituted as against 7,913 in the previous year, showing a trifling decrease. At the same time, the number of suits rose in Ranchi from 1,927 to 2,293, the increase being due to the fact that a large number of suits was brought by the Maharaja of Chota Nagpur and the managers of encumbered estates to prevent them being barred by limitation, the last day of *Sambat* era falling in the month of March instead of in April. The instructions of the Board of Revenue regarding the use to be made of the record-of-rights in the trial of rent-suits were duly observed and a fairly high level of efficiency was attained in their trial.

Relations
between
landlords and
tenants

75. The relations between landlords and their tenants were on the whole satisfactory except in the Patna Division, where they were slightly disturbed owing to the survey and settlement operations. Some cases of friction were reported from the Burdwan, Presidency and Bhagalpur divisions, but they were neither serious nor of a general character. In Chota Nagpur a general improvement has been observed and is attributed to the removal of old misunderstandings by the record-of-rights. An agitation against the protected forest and grazing rules in the district of Angul, the whole of which is a Government estate, speedily died out with the concession of a slight relaxation of the rules.

CHAPTER III.—PROTECTION.

Legislative Authorities.

See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1909-1910 PART II.
PAGES 15—19

Course of Legislation.

76. Four Acts were passed by the Bengal Legislative Council during the year 1910-1911, as follows — Acts passed during 1910-1911

(1) *Bengal Act III of 1910 [The Calcutta and Suburban Police (Amendment) Act, 1910].*

(2) *Bengal Act IV of 1910 [The Bengal Cess (Amendment) Act, 1910].* The above Acts are described on page 20 of the Administration Report for 1909-10.

(3) *Bengal Act I of 1911 [The Sambalpur Repealing and Amending (Rates and Cesses) Act, 1911].*—This is a formal Act, passed to rid the Statute-book of matter which had become obsolete in consequence of the abolition of certain rates and cesses in the Sambalpur district.

(4) *Bengal Act II of 1911 [The Bengal Vaccination (Amendment) Act, 1911].*—This Act makes various amendments in the Bengal Vaccination Act, 1880 (Bengal Act V of 1880), the more important of which are the following:—

- (a) reducing from one year to six months the age at which children must be vaccinated, the latter being the age now prescribed in England;
- (b) reducing from three months to one month the period of the currency of certificates that children are unfit for vaccination;
- (c) suspending for a year the grant of final certificates exempting children from liability to vaccination on the ground of their having been shown to be insusceptible to successful vaccination;
- (d) authorizing the transfer from public vaccinators to the Inspectors employed in the Vaccination Department of the duty of granting certificates of unfitness for vaccination, certificates of insusceptibility to successful vaccination and certificates of successful vaccination, and giving such Inspectors statutory recognition in other respects.

The Act applies in the first instance to the Calcutta Municipality and Port and Suburban Municipalities only, but power is taken to extend it, by notification, to other areas.

77. Two Bills were under consideration during the year 1910-1911, Bills pending during 1910-1911.
namely:—

- (i) *The Calcutta Improvement Bill*, designed to provide for the improvement and expansion of Calcutta. This Bill was passed some months after the end of the year, and will be described in the next Administration Report.
- (ii) *The Bengal Estates Partition (Amendment) Bill*.—This Bill was introduced in Council towards the close of the year and is still under consideration. Its object is to make various amendments in the Estates Partition Act, 1897 (Bengal Act V of 1897), in order to reduce delays in *batwara* proceedings.

Police.

[Report on the Administration of the Police Department for the year 1910 — Statistics of British India,
Part VI — Administrative and Judicial.]

Political crime. 78. The last half of the year 1910 showed a comparatively clean sheet in respect of this form of crime, but early in 1911 the murder of Head Constable Sirish Chandra Chakravarti in Calcutta and the bomb outrage at Writers' Buildings unfortunately demonstrated that no relaxation of vigilance was yet justifiable.

Professional crime 79. The Criminal Investigation Department maintained its record of usefulness. As a result of successful prosecutions, thefts from ~~running~~ trains on the East Indian Railway were reduced from 1,540 to 942, and further measures for the improvement of the policing of the Asansol-Burdwan section of the East Indian Railway have been adopted. Important convictions of dacoits were obtained on the Bankura-Manbhum border and in the 24-Parganas and Hooghly. The arrangements with the Nepalese authorities on the Purnea border continued to work satisfactorily. As a result of those operations and those of the district police the number of dacoities during the year fell from 341 to 231. The decline was most marked in the Bhagalpur division (82 to 26) and in Chota Nagpur (50 to 20), though it must be remembered that divisional jurisdictions furnish a fallacious basis of comparison. The Finger-print Bureau continued to do most successful work, and in two striking cases finger-prints left at the time of committing the offence were instrumental in securing the culprits' identification and conviction. The collection and classification of information in the Criminal Intelligence Bureau was completed during the course of the year, and systematic measures are now being adopted for the dissemination of criminal intelligence.

Ordinary crime 80. The satisfactory increase of activity which was shown during 1909 in the application of the preventive sections of the Criminal Procedure Code was well maintained, and was accompanied by a further decrease in cases of rioting and unlawful assembly (907 to 837), Shahabad being the only district in which there was a notable increase. The practice introduced in the district of Monghyr of warning land-owners and occupiers of disputes likely to lead to a breach of the peace in respect of lands in which they are interested, with a view to the application of section 154, Indian Penal Code, should they not endeavour to prevent the dispute culminating in a riot, has had a very satisfactory effect, and is regarded as one of the causes of the decrease of 30 per cent. in riot cases in the district.

Growth of cognizable crime during recent years 81. A careful examination of the statistics of the rise in the number of burglaries and dacoities during the past fifteen years has led to the conclusion that there has been an increase in the volume of reported crime against property not only absolutely but in proportion to the increase of population. Better reporting of crime may safely be postulated as accounting in part at least for this increase. Another cause may be found in the spread of industrial conditions. The industrial population of the province has increased from 37 lakhs, or 7 per cent. of the total in 1891 to 66 lakhs or 13 per cent. in 1901, and it is an acknowledged fact that the establishment of industrial conditions especially in the transitional stages is marked by a disproportionate increase of crime. A result of the industrial development of the country is improved methods of communication, and the numerous railway lines which now intersect the province afford additional facilities to professional criminals for carrying on their nefarious trade.

Rural Police 82. The defects in the President system have formed the subject of careful consideration during the year. The main lines of reform have now been settled, and instructions have been issued emphasizing the statutory obligation which rests on the rural police to report crime at the police-station, and reviving the practice of holding weekly or fortnightly parades at the thana, the abandonment of which has been largely responsible for the chaukidar growing more and more out of touch with the police. It has been decided to remove from office Presidents who encourage or connive at omission to report crime promptly at the thana, while efforts are being made to improve the *personnel* of the body of Presidents, both by weeding out undesirables and

by securing greater care in selection. Cases have been brought to light in which Presidents have been guilty of usurping to themselves the functions of Courts, and even of siding with criminals and releasing offenders. Such cases reflect discredit on the appointing authority, and in future when they occur, it has been decided to take measures to bring home to the officers concerned their responsibility in the matter. Since it is unfair to the system, while on its trial, to be called on to work with unsuitable instruments, it has further been laid down that in Unions in which no suitable candidate is available or ready to take office the system will be held in abeyance, and District Officers have been advised that, on the expiry of a President's term of office, it is not essential to appoint a successor unless a candidate in all respects suitable can be secured. Lastly, in the matter of control, it has been decided to make an important departure by dividing subdivisions into smaller areas, to be known as circles, and appointing to the charge of such circles selected officers of the Subordinate Civil Service, whose primary functions will be to keep in touch with Presidents and assist them in their official business. This system will shortly be put on trial on a small scale, as an experimental measure, and it is expected to result in an improvement not only in the work of the Presidents, but in matters of general administration.

83. Ten cases of maltreatment were instituted against the police during this year, as against seven in the previous year. Of these three were declared false, and four were dismissed under section 203, Criminal Procedure Code. Twenty cases of extortion were preferred, as against seventeen in 1909. Four were declared false, one was dismissed under section 203, Criminal Procedure Code, and of the nine cases brought to trial, only two ended in conviction, and the remaining seven in discharge or acquittal. The suggestion so frequently insinuated that Government is remiss in its endeavours to stamp out such abuses as occur is sufficiently refuted by the action taken in the Birbhum torture case, one of the two cases of this nature which were proved to be true. General condition of the police.

84. Remands still continue to be too frequent, and there is much room for improvement in this branch of the work. Frequently the police are blamable in being unprepared with evidence, more frequently the fault lies on the Court in ordering unnecessary postponements, thereby causing needless worry and expense to the public. Remands of cases.

85. The occurrence of a large number of acts of an illegal and violent nature committed by men of the *bhadralok* class in the villages of Khulna during the years 1908 and 1909, culminating in the Nangla dacoity of August 1909, rendered it necessary to employ an additional police force in certain villages of the Magura police-station. The cost of this force was ordered to be borne by the Brahmins and Kayasthas residing in those villages. A series of dacoities in villages on the borders of Khulna and Jessore during 1909-10 also rendered the entertainment of an additional police force necessary. As there was reason to believe that the dacoities were the work of the *bhadralok* classes, it was ordered that the cost should be borne by members of the Brahmin, Kayasth, Baidya and Satsudra castes. Additional police were also quartered in the village Choramba (Monghyr district), which as its name implies was an "abode of thieves," and in Champur (district Muzaffarpur), the inhabitants of which united to conceal the true facts of a serious case of murder. Additional police

Mortality caused by wild animals and snakes.

[Report on the above, and measures taken during 1910 for their destruction. Statistics of British India, Part V—Area, Population and Public health]

86. The number of persons killed by wild animals rose from 1,004 in 1909 to 1,130 in 1910, the increase being most marked in the districts of Khulna and the 24-Parganas of the Presidency division, where the number of deaths caused by tigers increased from 57 in 1909 to 126 in the year under report. Man-eating tigers were more aggressive in the Sundarbans portion of the Khulna district, and this aggressiveness is attributed to the fact that enormous numbers of deer were killed or drowned in the storm-wave which accompanied the cyclone of 1909. The result was a diminution of their natural food-supply and greater Wild animals.

inducement to attack human beings. The question of taking measures to lessen the evil is under consideration. The total number of deaths caused by tigers for the whole province rose from 383 to 449. The number of deaths caused by wolves rose from 167 to 216, a marked increase (from 58 to 130) having occurred in the district of Darbhanga.

Snakes.

87 The number of persons who died from snake-bite was 7,767, as against 7,202 in 1909. The increase is particularly noticeable in the Tirhut and Presidency divisions. The number of persons killed under this head in the Burdwan division is less by 236 than the number killed in 1909, this decrease is attributed to the absence of serious floods, which usually drive snakes to enter human habitations, and to the measures adopted for clearing jungle. 21,393 snakes are reported to have been killed during 1910, as against 21,908 during the preceding year.

Cattle killed
by wild
animals

88. 22,348 head of cattle were killed by wild animals, as against 23,624 in 1909; the decrease is shared by all the divisions except Patna. It was chiefly noticeable in the Chota Nagpur division, where 10,792 head of cattle were killed, as compared with 11,897 killed during the preceding year.

Destruction
of wild
animals

89. The total number of wild animals destroyed during the year under report was 1,785, as against 1,427 in the preceding year. The number of wolves and tigers killed rose from 160 and 116 in 1909 to 235 and 157 respectively in 1910. The amounts paid in rewards for the destruction of wild animals and snakes were Rs. 13,747-3 and Rs. 133 7, respectively the corresponding figures for 1909 were Rs. 9,631-15-6 and Rs. 170-14.

Police Administration in Calcutta.

[The Annual Report on the Police Administration of the town of Calcutta and the suburbs for the year 1910. Statistics of British India, Part VI—Administrative and Judicial.]

Discipline and
recruitment

90. The discipline of the force remained satisfactory, a small increase in judicial convictions (21 as against 14) being more than balanced by a decrease on dismissals (40 as against 62). There are signs, however, that the conditions of service in the lowest rank are not sufficiently attractive to the right class of men. There were 244 resignations, as against 201 in the previous year, the number has been steadily increasing and is now nearly double that of five years ago. Recruiting too was even more unsatisfactory than in 1909, and the failure of the Nathnagar scheme resulted in the postponement of the beat system in the northern suburbs until the close of the year. Many of the desertions occur directly the pressure of discipline and physical training is applied, nor should undue importance be attached to yearly fluctuations, which must necessarily follow to some extent on the variations in agricultural conditions and the labour market. But the reports for several years past undoubtedly betray a failure to attract and retain suitable men both for the Indian and the European subordinate ranks.

Crime

91. The volume of cases both cognizable and non-cognizable showed a decrease on the figures for 1909. Ordinary theft showed an increase of some 20 cases out of a total of 4,600. This is reported to be due to thefts in students' messes. The renewed increase in the number of burglaries by 72 in the town and 87 in the suburbs appears serious at first sight, but it is satisfactory to record in the divisions in which the new beat system was introduced at the close of 1909 there was no increase, and that the chief increase occurred in the northern suburbs, where, owing to difficulties in recruiting, the new system was not put in force till the close of 1910. It is anticipated that the new sections of the Calcutta and Suburban Police Act will strengthen the hands of the police in their campaign against professional criminals, in particular against that elusive class of criminals, receivers of stolen property.

The work of the courts was as heavy as in previous years. Honorary Magistrates continued to bear a substantial share of the burden and are to be congratulated on the public spirit displayed. Out of a total of 47,613 cases, 3,026 or 6·3 per cent were disposed of by the unpaid Magistracy, a number slightly less than in the previous year. This diminution is to some extent due to lack of accommodation for the courts of Honorary Magistrates, a subject which is meeting with the consideration of Government.

92. Shortly before the opening of the year under report in January 1910, Khan Bahadur Shams-ul Alam, Deputy Superintendent of Police, was shot in the corridor of the High Court as he was leaving the Court of Mr Justice Harington where the final appeal in the Alipore Bomb case was being heard. The assassin, a boy named Birendra Nath Dutta Gupta, was arrested, placed on his trial and condemned to death. This murder revealed serious defects in the policing of the High Court; the Court guards were accordingly strengthened and placed in charge of an officer of the rank of Superintendent. Mr. Superintendent Bower was selected for the post and was succeeded by a Deputy Commissioner; thus at the close of the year there were only two local divisions in the charge of Superintendents. A *jagir* of an annual value of Rs. 5,659 has been sanctioned for the widow and family of the murdered officer, and pending the final transfer of the *jagu* their needs were relieved by a grant of money. The murder of Shams-ul Alam was followed by a lull in political crime, but the murder of Head Constable Sirish Chandra Chakravarty and the attempted bomb outrage at Writers' Buildings early in 1911 showed the necessity of continued vigilance.

Political
crime

93. The Calcutta and Suburban Police Amendment Act (Act III of 1910) was passed during the year, the principal features of which were to define more clearly the duties, liabilities and powers of the police in their relations with the public, and to confer on the Commissioner, subject to the control of Government, certain much-needed extensions of his power with regard to the public peace and the regulation of nuisances.

Administra-
tion

94. The year was free from disturbances of a political complexion; but the *Bakr-ud* festival in December 1910 was attended by a recurrence of Hindu-Muhammadan rioting. The conduct of the police in dealing with these riots formed the subject of much criticism and careful enquiry. The only outstanding defect disclosed was that the force requires to be put in a position to deal more effectively at the outset with disturbances of this nature without recourse to the assistance of the military. Measures have therefore been taken to strengthen the force to this end and also to establish a firmer control over the unruly element of the population.

Public peace

95. The question of the differentiation in the treatment of adult and juvenile offenders was examined by the Chief Presidency Magistrate and the Commissioner of Police. Some of their proposals will involve special legislation, but it has been decided for the present that all juvenile offenders shall be confined in separate lock-ups; that they shall be tried only by the Chief Presidency Magistrate in person or by a subordinate Magistrate specially selected by him, and that at the time of their trial the Court shall sit with closed doors.

Juvenile
offenders

96. A disastrous fire occurred in January 1910 at Nimtolla, which resulted in a loss of some seven lakhs of rupees. Public criticism and complaints resulted in an enquiry which disclosed serious defects both in the discipline and equipment of the brigade. Disciplinary measures were taken against the officers and men of the brigade found guilty of gross misconduct. The equipment of the force has been improved by the purchase of a motor fire-engine and a motor tender carrying an auxiliary pump. A scheme for the reorganization of the brigade was considered during the year by a committee representing the various local authorities concerned, and it is trusted that as a result of these measures the fire-brigade will become as efficient as those of European cities and be placed on a footing worthy of the city.

Fire-brigade.

Criminal Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Criminal Justice in the Province of Bengal during the year 1910.
Statistics of British India, Part VI—Administrative and Judicial]

97. The permanently-settled estate of Turk Ballia was transferred from the Ballia district in the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh to the district of Shahabad in Bengal. Thirty villages were transferred from the district of Nadia in the province of Bengal to the district of Faridpur in the province of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The districts of Manbhum and Singbhum were removed from the sessions division of Chota Nagpur, and together with the

Changes in
jurisdiction.

district of Sambalpur, which was removed from the sessions division of Cuttack, were formed into a new sessions division, (styled the sessions division of Manbhum-Sambalpur) with its head-quarters at Purnia, with effect from the 9th March 1910.

Judicial staff.

98. For sessions work, the staff consisted of 20 Sessions Judges and 1 additional Sessions Judge employed throughout the year. On the constitution of the sessions division of Manbhum-Sambalpur, an addition was made to the permanent staff of District and Sessions Judges. Four subordinate Judges were vested with the powers of an assistant Sessions Judge. They were employed in five districts, where they decided 17, 12, 6, 5 and 3 cases respectively. Besides the above, temporary additional Sessions Judges were employed during the year in the districts of the 24 Parganas, Hooghly, Patna and Saran.

The magisterial staff employed at the close of the year, including that of the Presidency town, consisted of 404 stipendiary and 989 honorary magistrates. These figures represent an increase of 12 and a decrease of 10, respectively, on the numbers of the previous year. One special magistrate appointed under section 14 of the Code of Criminal Procedure was employed on criminal work at Shababad and decided 3 cases. Of the 404 stipendiary magistrates, 247 exercised first, 113 second, and 44 third class powers. There were 142 benches of magistrates constituted from among 925 honorary magistrates working during the year in the mufassal, 3 benches in Khulna, and 1 in Howrah having been abolished and 1 having been created in each of the districts of Murshidabad and Darjeeling. Of the total, 133 were independent, and 9 were restricted to the trial of cases under the Municipal Act.

Offences reported

99. There were 254,452 criminal offences reported during the year, a decrease of 3,824 on the figures of 1909. Of the total, 140,841 were under the Indian Penal Code and 113,611 under special and local laws. These totals are less by 6,407 and more by 2,583, respectively, than those of 1909. The decrease under the first head was most marked in Darbhanga, Monghyr, Ranchi and Puri, and the increase under the second in the 24 Parganas, Midnapore and Muzaffarpur.

False cases.

100. The number of cases found to be false, or in which complaints were dismissed, was 43,784, or 17.2 per cent. of the number reported during the year. These figures include cases pending inquiry at the close of 1909. The percentage for the preceding year was 15.4. Complaints were dismissed in 38,363 cases, or 4,217 more than in 1909. The number of cases declared to be false after trial or inquiry was 5,421, or 341 less than in 1909.

True cases.

101. Of the total number of cases under inquiry during the year, 210,486 were found to be true, and of these 176,109 were brought to trial. Inquiries were pending at the close of the year in 10,109 cases. Compared with 1909, the number of cases found to be true and of cases brought to trial showed a decrease of 7,388 and an increase of 560, respectively.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION

I—Magistrates' Courts.

Total cases for trial.

102. Of the total number of cases brought to trial, 60,168 were in the courts of the police and municipal magistrates in the Presidency town, and 115,941 in the courts of magistrates in the mufassal.

(A) Presidency Magistrates, Calcutta Cases for trial.

103. The number of cases brought before Presidency Magistrates, including the Municipal Magistrate, was less by 877 than in 1909. The number of cases under the Penal Code fell from 15,478 to 13,631, while cases under special and local laws rose from 45,567 to 46,537. The decrease under the former head was most marked in offences affecting the public health, safety, etc., which fell from 10,955 to 9,258. The number of offences affecting the human body, however, rose from 1,503 to 1,637. As regards offences under special and local laws, the increase was conspicuous in offences under the Act for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, which rose from 7,950 to 9,187, and in offences under the Police Act, which rose from 16,102 to 16,207; while the decrease was most marked in offences under the Port Act, which fell from 3,137 to 3,111, in offences under the European Vagrancy Act, which fell from 83 to 43, and in offences under the Excise Act, which fell from 333 to 300.

Before Presidency Magistrates other than the Municipal Magistrate, 43,479 cases were disposed of during the year, of which 41,259 were before stipendiary magistrates, 2,131 before honorary magistrates sitting singly, and 89 before benches. In 1909, the same officers disposed of 44,350 cases, of which 40,241 were before stipendiary magistrates, 3,921 before honorary magistrates sitting singly, and 88 before benches. One hundred and thirty-nine cases were pending at the close of the year. Of the total number disposed of, 62 were committed to the High Court, and the remainder were finally decided by magistrates, 3,138 under ordinary, and the remainder under summary, procedure. The number of witnesses examined before the police magistrates rose from 14,049 to 14,317, notwithstanding the decrease in the number of cases. The number of cases brought before the court of the Municipal Magistrate during the year was 16,632, of which 14,177 were cases under the Municipal Act. The number of cases disposed of was 16,621, of which 15,629 were decided under the summary procedure, and 4 cases remained pending at the close of the year. Compared with 1909, the numbers of cases instituted and disposed of show decreases of 186 and 196, respectively.

104. The aggregate number of persons under trial before the Presidency Magistrates, other than the Municipal Magistrate, was 48,377. Of the persons tried, 5,091 were acquitted or discharged, 42,925 were convicted, 3 persons died, 85 were committed to the sessions, and 270 remained under trial at the close of the year. Of persons tried for offences under the Penal Code, 11,474 were convicted and 4,184 acquitted or discharged. The results of the trials before each class of magistrates during the year are shown below —

Results of trials

	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted	Percentage of conviction
• Stipendiary magistrates ...	4,283	40,381	90.2
Benches of magistrates	90	38	29.6
Honorary magistrates sitting singly	618	2,502	80.2

Of the persons convicted, 19,514 were punished with rigorous imprisonment, the sentence in the case of 11 persons including terms of solitary confinement, 115 were punished with simple imprisonment, 38,878 with fine, and 184 with whipping. Two hundred and one of the persons sentenced to fine and 7 of those sentenced to whipping were so sentenced in addition to other punishments. Nine of the sentences of whipping were not in accordance with the amended Whipping Act of 1909. Nineteen sentences of imprisonment were, in the case of youthful offenders, commuted to detention in a reformatory school. Two thousand and sixty-one convicted persons were warned and discharged. In addition to these sentences, 142 persons were required to furnish security for good behaviour, of whom 135 were imprisoned in default for terms not exceeding one year, 63 persons convicted of offences involving a breach of the peace were ordered to execute bonds to keep the peace; 67 persons were released on probation under section 562, Criminal Procedure Code, and various miscellaneous orders were passed under special laws in the case of 163 persons. The number of persons released upon probation of good conduct shows a further decrease of 62 as compared with 1909. Before the Municipal Magistrate, 19,307 persons were under trial during the year, of whom 18,291 were convicted, 1,005 were acquitted or discharged, and 7 died, escaped, or were transferred for trial to other courts. Four remained under trial at the close of the year. The number of witnesses examined was 6,710, or 1,862 more than in 1909. The percentage of conviction was 94.7. Of the persons convicted, 11,719 were punished with fines, and the others were ordered to comply with the various requirements of the rules and by laws of the Corporation.

105. At the opening of the year, 3,214 cases, excluding cases of lunatics, were pending before magistrates outside Calcutta. During the year, 116,014 cases, including references under sections 347 and 349, Criminal Procedure Code, were brought to trial, and 115,806 were disposed of, 3,449 remaining pending at its close. Cases brought to trial were more by 1,450 than in 1909. Under the Indian Penal Code the increase was chiefly in offences affecting the human body (2,721), and in offences by or relating to public servants (244).

(B) Magis-
trates outside
Calcutta
Cases for trial.

On the other hand, there was a marked decrease in offences against property (3,327). There was an appreciable increase in cases under special and local laws. The variations under the other heads call for no remark. An increase in the number of cases instituted is reported from 16, and a decrease from 14, districts. In one district the number was the same as in the preceding year. The increase was marked in the 24 Parganas (817), Midnapore (893), Manbhum (814), Jessore (462), and Hooghly (333); while the decrease was greatest in Bhagalpur (803), Monghyr (748), Howrah (422), Gaya (389), and Patna (386). The cases brought to trial were disposed of as follows:—

	Tried regularly	Tried summarily
District Magistrates	401	38
Subordinate stipendiary magistrates	61,758	26,158
Honorary Magistrates	13,144	544
Benches of magistrates	5,280	8,373
Special magistrate	3	...

Of the 401 cases tried regularly by District Magistrates, 32 were decided in the exercise of special powers under section 34 of the Code of Criminal Procedure by Deputy Commissioners in Chota Nagpur and Manbhum-Sambalpur. This figure is a decrease of 6 from the figure for 1909. In addition to the cases shown above, district and subdivisional magistrates decided 107 cases referred to them under sections 347 and 349 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The number of cases decided during the year was more by 1,310 than the number decided in 1909. The increase occurred chiefly in the courts of honorary magistrates and subordinate stipendiary magistrates who disposed of 1,625 and 397 cases more, respectively, than in the preceding year. The number of cases disposed of by District Magistrates, benches and special magistrates shows a decrease of 56, 693 and 23, respectively, as compared with 1909. The total number of cases disposed of by District Magistrates was 546. The largest numbers of cases were decided by the Deputy Commissioner of Hazaribagh (121) and the District Magistrates of Bankura and Puri (109 and 67, respectively). The District Magistrates of Hooghly, Jessore and Bhagalpur did not dispose of any criminal cases.

Results of trials.

106. Of the total number of cases shown in the preceding paragraph, 1,087 were committed or referred to the sessions, and 114,719 were finally disposed of by magistrates. In these latter, 163,542 persons were accused, this number being 875 more than that of 1909. Of the total, 91,407, or 55.8 per cent., were convicted, and 72,135, or 44.2 per cent., were acquitted or discharged. In 1909, 57.5 per cent. of the persons tried were convicted. Of the persons tried for offences under the Indian Penal Code, 33,010, or 36.4 per cent., were convicted and 57,431, or 63.6 per cent., were acquitted or discharged. The total number of persons awaiting trial before magistrates at the close of 1910 was 7,092, as compared with 9,375 of 1909. Of these, 24, all of whom were on bail, were awaiting trial for more than six months. Explanations of the delay in the disposal of all cases pending for more than three months, submitted by the magistrates concerned, have been considered by the High Court, and the necessary orders have been passed on them. The number of persons in custody at the close of the year was 654, as against 603 at the close of 1909. The general result of trials before magistrates of each class was as follows:—

	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted	Percentage of convictions
Benches of magistrates	4,590	11,735	71.8
Subordinate stipendiary magistrates	58,861	69,157	54
Honorary magistrates	8,029	10,221	56
Special Magistrates	4
District Magistrates	651	294	31.1

Of the persons shown as convicted above, the numbers tried summarily were, by benches of magistrates, 8,367; by subordinate stipendiary magistrates, 27,336; by honorary magistrates, 507; and by District Magistrates, 46.

The mode of trial of the total number of persons convicted and the nature of the sentences passed were as follows:—

	Appealable sentences	Non-appealable sentences.
On regular trial	42,317	12,834
On summary trial	6,199	30,057

107. The sentences passed on persons convicted were as follows —

Punishments.

Imprisonment	{ rigorous	15,610
	{ simple	815
Fine	{ with imprisonment	2,740
	{ without imprisonment	69,462
Whipping	{ sole punishment	605
	{ additional punishment	58

A term of solitary confinement was included in 200 of the sentences of rigorous imprisonment, and in the case of 55 youthful offenders the sentence of imprisonment was commuted to one of detention in a reformatory school. Two thousand two hundred and forty-seven persons were called upon to give security to be of good behaviour, 2,169 of whom were sentenced to terms of imprisonment not exceeding one year on failing to comply with the orders. Two hundred and ninety-three persons, as against 345 in 1909, were released on probation under section 562 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Against persons who had previously been so released, proceedings were subsequently taken in 65 cases, involving 66 persons, all of whom were convicted and punished. In addition to substantive punishments, 2,939 persons were required to execute bonds to keep the peace, of whom 868 were convicted of offences involving a breach of the peace. Of the sentences of imprisonment imposed, 3,382 were for terms not exceeding 15 days, 10,580 for terms not exceeding 6 months, 4,437 for terms not exceeding 2 years, and 57 for terms exceeding 2 years. Sentences of whipping were passed on 663 persons, as against 905 in the preceding year. Of these, 72 were not in accordance with the law as altered by Act IV of 1909. The fines imposed aggregated Rs 5,68,801. During the year Rs 4,98,752 were realized, and Rs. 67,706 were paid as compensation to complainants out of the fines realized.

108. There were 1,479 proceedings under chapter VIII, Criminal Procedure Code, to prevent a breach of the peace, in which 6,738 persons were involved. The cases and the persons involved therein were more numerous than in 1909. Of the persons concerned, 2,071 were required to execute bonds to keep the peace, in addition to the persons mentioned in the preceding paragraph as having been similarly bound down on conviction. The number of persons dealt with under this chapter was largest in Khulna (930), Jessore (840), Midnapore (512), Howrah (426), Shahabad (408) and Saran (404). The increase in the number of proceedings of this class was marked in Midnapore, Jessore, Shahabad, the 24-Parganas and Bankura, while the decrease was most notable in Khulna, Bhagalpur, Murshidabad and Patna. In 1,367 cases, 3,071 persons were called upon to show cause why they should not give security to be of good behaviour, and the orders were made absolute against 2,509 of them. Of these, 2,427 failed to give the required security and were imprisoned in default, 262 after reference to the court of session under section 123 of the Code and 2,165 under orders of magistrates for terms not exceeding one year.

109. Proceedings for the abatement of nuisances under chapter X of the Code were taken in 1,156 cases, and in the cases of 23 persons a reference was made to a jury under section 138 of the Code. The number of cases under chapter XII of the Code, involving questions of the possession of land, decided by magistrates during the year, was 2,406, a decrease of 179 on the figures for 1909. Under section 250 of the Code, 641 complainants were ordered to pay compensation to accused persons, their accusations having been found to be frivolous or vexatious. Proceedings for maintenance under chapter XXXVI of the Code were taken against 813 persons, and orders were made absolute against 271.

Miscellaneous proceedings, Code of Criminal Procedure, Chapter VIII,

Chapters X, XII and XXXVI

110. The number of witnesses examined in the courts of magistrates in the mufassal was 310,101, as compared with 324,475 in 1909. The number who attended and were discharged without examination was 106,931, or 25.6 per cent of the whole number in attendance. In the preceding year the percentage was 28.4. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses of their attendance rose from Rs 74,863 in 1909 to Rs. 78,005 in 1910. Of the total number in attendance, 324,598 (77.8 per cent. were discharged on the first day, 68,479 (16.4 per cent.) on the second, 18,442 (4.4 per cent. on the third, and 5,603 (1.4 per cent.) after the third day. The number of witnesses detained for more than three days was 335 less than the number so detained in 1909. The results show little variation from those of the previous year. The districts in which the largest percentage of witnesses was detained for more than three days were Burdwan (3), Shahabad (2.8), Champaran (2.6) and Midnapore (2.5). Explanations of all these detentions have been considered by the High Court, and orders have been passed thereon.

II—Courts of Session.

Commitments.

111. The number of cases committed for trial or referred during the year was 1,087, or 157 less than in 1909, and the number decided, inclusive of pending cases of the previous year, was 1,084, or 169 less than in 1909. There were 137 cases pending at the close of the year. Commitments decreased in 17 districts, increased in 12, and in three districts the figures remained stationary. The decrease was marked in the following districts:—in Nadia from 68 to 36; in the 24-Parganas from 104 to 83, in Midnapore from 83 to 62; in Muzaffarpur from 58 to 38, in Bhagalpur from 52 to 35; and in Ramhi from 42 to 27. On the other hand, the increase was noticeable in Birbhum from 22 to 44, in Burdwan from 22 to 39, in Patna from 49 to 59, and in the Sonthal Parganas from 37 to 45. The numbers in Manbhum, Darbhanga and Darjeeling (40, 38 and 12 respectively) were the same as in 1909, and, as in that year, the number of commitments was largest in the 24-Parganas (83).

Results of trials.

112. There were 2,575 persons, or 1,055 less than in 1909, under trial before courts of session during the year. The cases of 2,241 persons were decided, and 319 remained under trial at the close of the year. Of the 2,241 persons tried, 1,448 or 64.5 per cent. were convicted, and 741 were acquitted or discharged, and the cases of 52 persons were referred to the High Court under sections 307 and 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Punishments

113. The following sentences were passed by the courts of session during the year —

Death	21
Transportation	{	for life	..	76
		for a term of years	..	31
Imprisonment	{	rigorous	..	1,058
		simple	..	10
Fine	65
Whipping	6

In the case of 28 out of the 1,058 persons sentenced to rigorous imprisonment, the sentences included terms of solitary confinement, and in the case of 2 youthful offenders the sentences of imprisonment were commuted to detention in a reformatory school. Fifty-six of the sentences of fine and five of whipping were additional punishments. These 5 sentences of whipping were not in accordance with the provisions of Act IV of 1909. Besides the above, 262 persons were sentenced to rigorous or simple imprisonment (12 for terms not exceeding one year and 50 for terms between one year and three years) on failure to furnish security for good behaviour, and 5 persons who had been convicted of offences involving a breach of the peace were required in addition to their substantive punishment to execute bonds with sureties to keep the peace. Sentences of imprisonment were passed for the following terms:—

Not exceeding	{	15 days	..	12
		6 months	..	116
		2 years	..	295
		7 years	..	857
Exceeding 7 years	48

Fines to the amount of Rs. 7,981 were imposed by courts of session, as compared with Rs. 7,465 imposed in the preceding year. The total realisations of the year aggregated Rs. 3,217, as compared with Rs. 2,213 in 1909. The amount of fines realised and paid as compensation to complainants was Rs. 1,281 in 1910, as compared with Rs. 662 in 1909.

114. The number of persons tried by jury during 1910 was 652, and of the persons so tried the Sessions Judge approved of the verdict of the jury in respect of 585 persons, and disapproved of it in respect of 67. In the case of 31 persons, the Sessions Judge disagreed with the verdict and referred the case to the High Court under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The results of these references are given under the head "Superintendence, Reference and Revision."

115. The number of persons tried with the aid of assessors during the year under review was 1,207, with the result that in the case of 925 persons the Sessions Judge concurred with the opinion of both the assessors, in the case of 98 he differed from the opinion of one; and in the case of 184 he differed from the opinion of both the assessors. The corresponding figures of 1909 were 1,769, 1,208, 258 and 303, respectively.

116. The average duration of sessions trials, from the date of commitment to the date of decision, rose from 39.9 days in 1909 to 41.5 days in 1910. Notice was, as usual, taken by the High Court of all cases of unusual duration. The duration of cases was notably high in the districts of the 24-Parganas (69.3 days), Patna (67.6 days), Cuttack (56.1 days), Balasore (56 days), and Puri (50 days). The increase in the duration of cases from 36.1 days to 56.1 days in Cuttack, from 27.8 days to 46.9 days in Burdwan, and from 27.1 days to 42.5 days in Manbhum is noticeable; but there was an appreciable reduction from 64 days to 34.7 days in Sambalpur and from 53.9 days to 37.1 days in Howrah.

117. The number of witnesses in attendance before the courts of session was 16,086. Of these, 10,532 were examined and 5,554 discharged without examination. In 1909, the corresponding figures were 13,393 and 6,867, respectively. Of the total number in attendance, 6,952 (43.2 per cent.) were discharged on the first day, 4,911 (30.5 per cent.) on the second day, 2,375 (14.8 per cent.) on the third day and 1,848 (11.5 per cent.) after the third day. The proportion of witnesses discharged after the third day is appreciably smaller than in 1909. The High Court has taken due notice of the excessive detention of witnesses in reviewing the district reports. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses incurred by them in attending sessions trials was Rs. 28,145, as compared with Rs. 47,752 in 1909.

118. Sixteen cases were pending at the opening of the year, and 64 cases were brought to trial in the High Court during the year. Of these, 78, inclusive of the cases of two European British subjects committed and transferred from Burdwan and the 24-Parganas, were tried during the year, and 2 remained undecided at its close. Altogether 106 persons were tried, of whom 76 were convicted and 30 acquitted. The number of witnesses examined was 653, and the average duration of cases from commitment 41.3 days, against 32.7 days in 1909.

III.—High Court-Special Bench.

119. One case, involving 9 persons, was pending from the previous year, and six cases, involving 92 persons, were committed during the year for trial by Special Benches under Act XIV of 1908. Of the cases committed during the year, there were three from Khulna involving 30 persons, one from Nadia involving 10 persons, one from Howrah involving 46 persons, and one from the 24 Parganas involving 6 persons. The results of the trials were as follows:—In three of the four cases committed from Khulna, 12 persons were convicted and sentenced to transportation for a term, and 11 were acquitted or discharged. In the case committed from Nadia, 7 persons were convicted and sentenced to rigorous imprisonment, and the remainder were acquitted or discharged. The remaining three cases committed from Khulna, Howrah and the 24-Parganas, involving 16, 46 and 6 persons, respectively, remained under trial at the close of the year. Two hundred and six witnesses were examined in the cases disposed of, and the average duration of each case from the date of commitment was 89 days.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION

I.—High Court.

Appeals.

120. At the opening of 1910, there were 38 appeals pending before the High Court from sentences or orders of criminal courts. During the year 642 appeals were preferred, and 629 were decided; leaving 44 pending at its close. Two appeals abated on the death of the appellants. The numbers preferred and decided were 11 more and 23 less, respectively, than in the preceding year. The pending file shows an increase of 11. Of the appeals against sentences preferred during the year, 454 were from courts of session, 173 were from Presidency magistrates, and 9 from Deputy Commissioners exercising special powers under section 34 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Six appeals were preferred by the Local Government against orders of acquittal.

Results of
appeals.

121. Four hundred and forty-six appeals against sentences of courts of session were decided during the year. The orders of the lower courts were upheld in 364 instances, reversed in 29 and modified in 49. Four cases were remanded for re-trial. One hundred and sixty-five appeals from the orders of magistrates of the Presidency town were decided during the year, the orders being affirmed in 147 cases, reversed in 6 and modified in 10. One case was remanded for re-trial, and the proceedings in another were quashed. Ten appeals from sentences of Deputy Commissioners were decided during the year; the orders were confirmed in 8 cases, modified in one, and reversed in one. The results of the appeals decided during the year, as affecting individuals, were that the appeals of 611 persons were summarily dismissed under section 421 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and that, in admitted appeals, sentences on 203 appellants were confirmed, on 87 reduced or altered, and on 62 annulled. In the case of 34 a new trial or further inquiry was ordered. In the case of one person the sentence passed by the lower court was enhanced, and in the case of one the proceedings were quashed.

Appeals
against
acquittals

122. Eight appeals by the Local Government against orders of acquittal were decided during the year. Of these, six were against orders of acquittal passed by Sessions Judges. In one of these cases, two persons (villagers) had been convicted and sentenced under sections 323 and 143 of the Indian Penal Code by a Deputy Magistrate. The charge against the accused was that they had assaulted the complainant (a European) who was encamped in the neighbourhood of their village. The High Court set aside the order of acquittal passed by the Sessions Judge on appeal, and restored the conviction and sentence passed upon the accused under section 323, Indian Penal Code, by the first court. In the second case, the Sessions Judge had acquitted on appeal three persons convicted and sentenced by a Joint-Magistrate for offences under sections 465, 471, 193, 196 and 204, or for abetment of these offences under section 109, Indian Penal Code. The High Court convicted and sentenced one of the accused under sections 192 and 464, Indian Penal Code, while the other two were convicted of abetment. In the third case, seven persons charged under sections 147, 452, 304 and 325 of the Indian Penal Code had been acquitted by a court of session. The High Court convicted and sentenced the accused under sections 452 and 147 of the Indian Penal Code. In the fourth case, the order of a court of session acquitting eight persons charged under sections 147 and 341, Indian Penal Code, was set aside, and the case was remanded for re-trial. In the fifth case, the order of the Sessions Judge reversing on appeal the conviction and sentence passed upon nine persons under section 147, Indian Penal Code, by a Deputy Magistrate, was set aside, and the appeal was remanded for re-hearing. The appeal of the Local Government in the sixth case was dismissed. In the remaining two cases, in which the accused had been acquitted of offences under sections 353, 363 and 373 of the Indian Penal Code by Deputy Magistrates, the High Court ordered a re-trial.

II.—Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

Sessions Courts

123. There were 123 appeals pending before the courts of sessions at the opening of the year. During the year 3,028 appeals were preferred, 3,027 were decided, and 125 remained pending at its close. The number of

appeals preferred was 517 less than in 1909. In the appeals decided during 1910, 5,101 persons were concerned. The appeals of 1,700 of these, or 33·3 per cent., were summarily dismissed, 1,609 appellants, whose appeals were admitted, were altogether unsuccessful; 659 obtained a reduction or alteration of sentence; and 1,050 were acquitted; in the cases of 83 appellants, a new trial or further inquiry was ordered. The proportion of persons whose appeals were wholly unsuccessful, successful in obtaining a modification of the original orders, and successful in obtaining their reversal, was 64·8, 12·9 and 20·5, respectively. Of those concerned in admitted appeals only, the same proportions were 47·3, 19·3 and 30·8 per cent. If admitted appeals only are considered, these results were on the whole less favourable to appellants than those of the previous year.

124. In the courts of magistrates, 201 appeals were pending at the opening of the year. During the year 3,725 appeals were preferred, 3,750 were decided, and 176 remained pending at its close. The number preferred was less than in 1909 by 51. The number of persons whose appeals were decided by courts of magistrates was 6,801. Of these, the appeals of 1,333 were summarily dismissed, and the sentences on 3,008, whose appeals were admitted, were confirmed, making a total of 4,341 wholly unsuccessful appellants, or 63·8 per cent. Of the remainder, 772 appellants, or 11·3 per cent., obtained a modification of the sentences passed on them, and 1,585, or 23·3 per cent., their total annulment. In the case of 101 appellants a new trial or further inquiry was ordered, and the cases of 2 persons were referred to the High Court. These results were slightly more favourable to appellants than those of the previous year.

Magistrates' Courts

SUPERINTENDENCE, REFERENCE AND REVISION.

I.—High Court.

125. Five references under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure from verdicts of juries were pending in the High Court at the opening of the year, and 18 were made during the year. Eighteen of these references were decided during the year and five remained undecided at its close. The result of the 18 cases disposed of was that the verdict of the jury was accepted in 5 cases and set aside in 13.

References under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure

126. Twenty references under section 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for confirmation of death sentences were made to the High Court during 1910, and two were pending before the Court at the opening of the year. Eighteen were decided during the year, and 4 were pending at its close. In the references decided, 19 persons were concerned. Of these, the death sentence on 10 was confirmed; and in the case of 7 the sentence was commuted to transportation for life. The remaining 2 persons were acquitted.

References under section 374, Code of Criminal Procedure

127. The cases of six persons, who though not insane could not be made to understand the proceedings, were referred for the orders of the High Court, and the case of one was pending at the opening of the year. All the cases were disposed of during the year, the convictions were approved and sentences were passed upon the accused persons.

References under section 341, Code of Criminal Procedure.

128. During the year 152 cases were reported for the orders of the High Court by Sessions Judges and District Magistrates under section 435 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and 11 were pending at the opening of the year. The same numbers were decided and remained pending. The number reported was the same as in 1909. In 64 cases the orders sent up for revision were set aside, and in 27 a new trial was ordered. Sentences were reduced or altered in 20 cases, and enhanced in 2. In the remaining 39 cases the High Court declined to interfere. Under section 435 of the Code of Criminal Procedure orders were passed in 1,012 cases, a decrease of 43 on the figures of the previous year. Of these, 1,002 came before the High Court on applications made to it, and 10 were taken up on review of the periodical sessions statements submitted by Sessions Judges, or otherwise of its own motion. Of the applications for the issue of rules, 487 were rejected. Of 515 rules issued, 174 were finally discharged; 196 were made absolute in their entirety, the orders complained of were modified in 57 cases and quashed in 11; in 77 cases a new

Revision.

Applications
for transfer

trial was ordered. In 7 of the 10 cases taken up by the High Court on review of sessions statements, or otherwise of its own motion, the orders passed by the lower court were not disturbed, in 1 the sentence was reversed, and in 2 it was enhanced.

129. One hundred and three applications under section 526 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for the transfer of cases (100 original cases and three appeals) from one court or district to another were on the files; and all of them were dealt with during the year. Thirty-nine were summarily rejected, and in 14 cases transfers were granted without the issue of a rule. In 50 cases rules were issued, with the result that transfers were granted in 36 and refused in 14 cases.

II.—Courts subordinate to the High Court

Sessions Courts

130. Including accused persons who themselves applied for revision of the orders passed on them in the courts of magistrates, and accused persons against whom such applications were made by complainants, the cases of 3,850 persons were decided on revision by courts of session during the year. The number was more than in 1909 by 501. The applications of 1,813 persons were rejected, and as regards 748 the orders of the lower court were confirmed. Orders passed in the cases of 51 persons were reversed, in 10 instances proceedings were quashed, and the order of the lower court was modified in the cases of two persons. The cases of 283 persons were referred to the High Court, and in the cases of 943 persons new trials or further inquiries were ordered.

Magistrates' Courts.

131. The cases of 2,811 accused persons who applied for revision, or against whom applications were made by complainants, came before District Magistrates for revision. The number was more by 540 than in 1909. Of the total, the applications of 1,237 persons were rejected, and in the cases of 533 the original sentence or order was upheld. Sentences or orders affecting 42 persons were modified, and those affecting 224 were reversed. In the cases of 58 persons proceedings were quashed, and in those of 659 new trials or further inquiries were directed. The cases of 58 persons were referred to the High Court.

III.—General.

Trials of
European
British subjects.

132. The cases of 88 European British subjects were decided during the year, as against 55 in the previous year. Of these, 84 were dealt with by Magistrates, 2 by courts of session, and 2 by the High Court. Of the accused persons, one claimed to be tried by a mixed jury. In the cases disposed of by magistrates, 61 persons were convicted and 23 acquitted. The convictions were in 30 cases for offences under special and local laws, in 10 cases for offences affecting the human body, in 13 cases for offences against property, in 5 cases for offences affecting the public health, safety, convenience, etc., and in 3 cases for criminal intimidation, insult and annoyance. The two cases before the court of session resulted in the acquittal of the accused. In one the accused was charged with the offence of theft, and in the other with an offence by or relating to public servants. Of the two persons tried by the High Court, one was committed from the district of Burdwan for trial for the offence of criminal breach of trust, and the other was transferred from the district of the 24-Parganas for trial for the offence of attempt to murder. Both accused were acquitted. The largest numbers of European British subjects were tried in the 24 Parganas (23), and in Darjeeling and Burdwan (18 each).

Results of
criminal work.

133. During 1910 there was a small increase, as compared with the previous year, in the number of criminal cases decided by magistrates in the mufassal, but there was a small decrease in the amount of work disposed of by magistrates in the Presidency town. There was a slight decrease in appellate work and a small increase in revisional work which came before Magistrates. In the courts of session there was a perceptible decrease of both original and appellate work and an increase in revisional work. In the High Court a slight decrease of both appellate and revisional work is noticeable.

Eighty-five persons (56 in Howrah, 16 in Khulna, 11 in the Presidency town and 2 in the 24-Parganas), against 50 in the previous year, were under trial for offences against the State. Of these, 21 were convicted, 17 were acquitted or discharged, and 47 remained under trial at the close of the year.

The High Court regret to observe that, notwithstanding its explicit directions on the subject, the subordinate courts in some cases overlooked the changes made in the law of whipping by Act IV of 1909. As noted above, sentences of whipping were passed illegally on 86 persons. Twenty-two of these sentences were set aside on appeal or revision, and in one case the sentence was commuted. In 63 cases the sentence was executed. In 35 cases the illegal sentences were upheld on appeal. The attention of the subordinate courts has again been drawn to the alteration in the law on this subject.

134. Debiting, as usual, to the administration of criminal justice a portion of the salaries of judicial officers fixed according to the time which their returns show them to have devoted to it, the total charges for the year amounted to Rs. 26,55,759. Of this amount, Rs. 15,81,874 were for the salaries of judicial officers, Rs. 1,27,035 for fixed and temporary copying establishments, Rs. 70,673 for process-servers, Rs. 3,71,850 for other establishments, and Rs. 5,01,327 for contingencies and refunds. The receipts amounted to Rs. 13,61,310. Of this amount, Rs. 6,22,939 was under fines, Rs. 1,35,482 under process-fees, Rs. 1,53,914 under copying and comparing fees, Rs. 3,34,389 under court-fee stamp receipts other than the above, and Rs. 1,17,586 constituted miscellaneous receipts. The receipts exceeded those of 1909 by over one lakh and sixteen thousand rupees, while the charges fell by over one lakh and fourteen thousand rupees.

Receipts and charges

CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN SCHEDULED DISTRICTS.

135. The number of cases brought to trial during 1910 in the scheduled districts of the Sonthal Parganas and Angul (including Khondmals) was 6,984 as against 6,300 in the preceding year. The total number of cases disposed of was 6,860, as against 6,203 in 1909. The number of witnesses examined was 19,332, as against 21,090 in the previous year. The total number of persons under trial, including those who had been awaiting trial from the preceding year, was 10,295, of whom 4,783 were acquitted and discharged and 5,265 convicted. Of the cases brought to trial, 1,043 were for criminal force and assault, 748 for theft, 738 for criminal trespass and 2,658 for offences under special and local laws. The punishment of whipping was inflicted in 72 cases against 121 cases in the previous year. This represents less than 5 per cent. of the cases in which whipping might have been awarded. The total number of appellants and applicants for revision was 615, of whom 139 were wholly or partly successful.

Sonthal Parganas and Angul.

Jails.

[Report on the administration of the Jail Department for the year 1910. Statistics of British India, Part VI—Judicial]

136. The outstanding feature of the year from the administrative point of view was the reduction in the jail population, due to the good harvest of 1909-10, the average daily number of prisoners being 13,163, as against 15,065 in 1909. At the same time, the available accommodation was increased by the opening of the new Central Jail at Kalighat on 1st January 1910; accommodation was thus obtained during the year for 1,705 more prisoners than in 1909. It is to be remembered, however, that the decline of the jail population must be regarded as temporary, and the present satisfactory proportion of accommodation to population is only maintained by the retention of the old Presidency Jail on the Calcutta Maidan, and the retention of that jail is absolutely necessary until the erection of a new Central Jail at Monghyr is completed. The latter project, though unfortunately delayed by financial

Jail population

difficulties, has been definitely commenced. On 16th December 1910 the Secretary of State gave provisional sanction to the scheme; detailed plans and estimates were prepared and are now under consideration; and with the sanction of the Secretary of State a start has now been made with the acquisition of the land required and other preliminary arrangements. The construction of buildings will be carried out as rapidly as possible; the new jail will provide accommodation for 2,000 prisoners as against 1,235 in the old Presidency Jail, and will furnish a solution, at any rate for a considerable period, of the problem of overcrowding which has been the chief blot on the administration of the jails of Bengal for the past ten years.

Mortality

137. With the decline in overcrowding during the year the health of the jails has shown a marked improvement, as the death-rate has come down to 18.6 per mille,—a figure which has been surpassed only once in the history of the department, viz., in 1907, when the rate fell so low as 17.5. This improvement is attributed primarily to the absence of overcrowding; although the prosperity of the year is also an important factor, since the prisoners admitted are generally in better health than in a poor year. At the same time it would not be fair to deny to the officers of the Department their share of credit for the improvement. Their successful treatment of dysentery is a case in point. This disease has been the scourge of the Hazaribagh Jail for several years past, but in the year under report the number of deaths fell from 97 to 53, of which only 19 occurred in the second-half of the year. The epidemic received the special attention of Government during the year; and Captain Wells, I.M.S., of the Central Research Institute, was engaged on special duty inquiring into the matter. His report has not yet been published, but the prevalence of the disease is believed to have been connected with the deficiency of the water-supply. The scheme for an improved supply of water has now been worked out, and it is trusted that the disease will yield to this treatment and to the general care and attention of the medical staff.

Warders

138. The following proposals for the improvement of the warder service are of some importance:—

- (1) That the warder service should be made pensionable.
- (2) That enlisted men should be substituted as far as possible for convict warders, many of whom, under the present system, are not qualified under the rules for the responsible duties which they perform.
- (3) That the system of maintaining at Central Jails a certain reserve of warders should be extended, thus obviating the necessity of employing absolutely untrained men in temporary vacancies.

The first suggestion is regarded for the present as impracticable. The warder service of Bengal cannot be taken alone; it belongs to the class of services which under general account rules are ineligible for pensions, and to extend the concession to the Bengal warder service as a whole would result in claims which it would be difficult to resist from many other services similarly situated. Apart from financial considerations, the present is not a suitable time to press for further ameliorations in the terms of the warder service, seeing that as recently as 1908 it was reorganized and its conditions considerably improved at an additional cost of Rs. 36,118-4 per annum. As regards the second proposal, it is clear from the figures given in the Inspector-General's report that the convict system, apart from any intrinsic disadvantages which may inhere in it, has been abused, and that necessary additions to the paid warder service have been avoided by appointing, as convict officers, prisoners not entitled under the rules to such a concession. The time has come when the system should at least be restricted rigidly within the limits imposed by the rules. As a preliminary measure proposals have been called for increasing the estimates of the Central Jails to such an extent as may be necessary to avoid the employment as convict officers of ineligible prisoners. The system of a circle reserve of warders, to which reference is made in the third proposal, is undoubtedly a sound one, but it has so far been introduced only tentatively in two circles. Instructions have now been issued to the Inspector-General of Prisons to prepare a general scheme based on recognised principles.

139. It had been recognized for some time that the jail industries of the province on their commercial side were not in a satisfactory condition. Accordingly the whole question of jail industries was considered by a Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Jails Department, the Chief Secretary to Government, the Inspector-General, and the Superintendent of Jail Manufactures. The Committee arrived at the conclusion that the falling off in the profits of manufactures was primarily due to the neglect of Government departments to observe the standing orders of the Government of India, which prescribe the utilization for Government purposes, where possible, of jail products. The measures which have been taken will, it is hoped, have the effect of ensuring a more regular disposal of the produce of jail manufactures to the spending departments of Government. Steps also are being taken to place the Jail Depôt in Calcutta on a better commercial basis.

Jail industries.

140. The Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society employed 39 prisoners at its book-binding shop, as against 29 during 1909, and in addition gave assistance to 52 discharged prisoners.

Assistance to prisoners after release

141. The Jail Department met with an unusual share of attention in connection with the methods of dealing with under-trial prisoners in political cases, and it was freely alleged that under-trial prisoners of this class were subjected to unfair and irregular differential treatment. These allegations were the subject of most careful inquiry, and the suggestion that the law or the rules of the department were in any case perverted to the harassment of political prisoners is entirely unfounded. The most weighty and the most frequently repeated denunciation was that these prisoners or some of them were subjected to "solitary confinement of a penal type." This criticism rests on ignorance of the law and rules regulating the incarceration of under-trial prisoners, and particularly of the nature of solitary confinement. Such prisoners, it is true, are not allowed to associate and live together while under trial. It was such association that enabled the under-trial prisoners in the first Alipore conspiracy case to plan and execute the murder of the approved Narondia Nath Gossain. Accordingly since that date such prisoners have usually, and where the construction of the jail permitted, been kept each in a separate cell or room of his own. This procedure is in no sense improper. It is nowhere laid down either in the law or in the Jail Code that under-trial prisoners are entitled to confinement in association. Indeed the English prison rules are emphatic that under-trial prisoners shall be kept separate and shall not be permitted to communicate together lest they contaminate each other and defeat the ends of justice. In India the majority of the jails do not provide sufficient accommodation to allow of the separate confinement of under-trials, and greater laxity has been allowed to prevail, but separate confinement where feasible is perfectly regular. Such separate confinement, however, does not amount to solitary confinement, which is awarded solely as a punishment. The essential difference is that in solitary confinement a prisoner is excluded not only from communication with, but from the sight of, other prisoners, whereas in separate confinement he is excluded from communication with other prisoners only; he is allowed exercise in a common exercise ground, and is allowed to have his meals in association with one or more other prisoners. The suggestion that these under-trials were subjected to the form of solitary confinement which is awarded as a punishment to convicts is entirely unfounded.

Methods of dealing with under-trial prisoners in political cases.

Civil Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Civil Justice in the province of Bengal during the year 1910
Statistics of British India, Part VI—Administrative and Judicial]

142. The permanently-settled estate of Turk Balha was transferred from the Balha district in the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh to the district of Shahabad in Bengal. Thirty villages were transferred from the district of Nadia in the province of Bengal to the district of Faridpur in the province of Eastern Bengal and Assam.

Changes in jurisdiction.

PROTECTION.

Judicial staff.

143. The permanent civil judicial staff employed in the province during 1910 consisted of 15 High Court Judges; 21 District Judges; 1 additional District Judge; a Chief Judge and four Judges of the Presidency Small Cause Court; 2 provincial Small Cause Court Judges, who exercised also the powers of a Subordinate Judge; 36 Subordinate Judges; and 170 Munsifs. In addition, 8 executive officers exercised the powers of a Subordinate Judge or Small Cause Court Judge, and 7 the powers of a Munsif. The temporary fifteenth judgeship of the High Court was made permanent during the year. The judicial staff in the district courts was increased by the addition of a District Judge consequent upon the creation of the Manbhum-Sambalpur judgeship. In addition to the permanent staff, the appointment of a second additional District Judge for land acquisition work in the 24 Parganas was continued, and temporary additional District Judges were employed in Patna, Saran and the 24 Parganas.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Original suits instituted

144. The number of civil suits pending on the Original side of the High Court at the end of 1909 was 1,101, including 16 pending suits received by transfer from other courts; and the number instituted during 1910 was 1,236 including 15 suits received by transfer from other courts and 3 remanded for re-trial during the year, making a total of 2,337 for disposal in 1910. Of the suits instituted during 1910, 736 were for money or moveable property, 152 were mortgage suits, and 37 were suits for immovable property. The value of suits for specific money claims was Rs. 74,65,041-0-5, compared with Rs. 78,13,804-1-2 in the previous year.

Original suits decided

145. The number of suits decided in 1910 was 976, and the number pending at its close was 1,361. The number of suits under trial was 260 more than at the commencement of the year. There were 491 suits pending over one year, showing an increase of 139 on the figures of the previous year. Of the suits decided, 216 were dismissed for default or want of prosecution, 14 were withdrawn with leave, 19 were determined by compromise, 81 were decreed on confession, 295 were decreed *ex-parte*, 16 were dismissed *ex-parte*, 5 were disposed of by reference to arbitration, and 250 were decreed and 80 dismissed, after contest.

Cases under the extraordinary jurisdiction.

146. At the commencement of the year 5 suits were pending in the High Court in its extraordinary original civil jurisdiction, and 8 suits were transferred to it during the year. Two of them were disposed of during the year, and 11 remained pending at its close.

Probates and letters of administration, etc.

147. The court disposed of 466 petitions for probate and letters of administration, and 4,854 interlocutory applications. Of the interlocutory applications, those for the appointment of guardians *ad litem*, for the discovery of documents, for special leave to file written statements after time, for summonses as to chamber applications, and for summonses to witnesses, were disposed of by the Registrar and the Master. The number of such applications was 2,695. The remaining applications (2,159) were disposed of by the Court or a Judge in chambers.

References to take accounts, etc.

148. The number of references to take accounts, to make inquiries as to estates to be administered or partitioned, as to debts and incumbrances, as to allowances to be made for maintenance, on questions of title, on questions affecting minors in proposed terms of settlement, to settle conveyances, etc., pending at the commencement of the year, was 141. Fresh references were directed by the court in 313 cases. Of the total number of references, 315 were disposed of by the Registrar and the Official Referee and their assistants.

Proclamations under Order XXI, Rule 66.

149. During the year, the Registrar and the Master settled the proclamations of sale by the Sheriff in the ordinary course of execution in 4 and 9 cases, respectively, in all of which it was found necessary to examine witnesses. The Registrar also settled 24 conveyances and inquired into the sufficiency of sureties in 59 cases under the Civil Procedure Code. The above are included in the references disposed of by the Registrar and the Master. They further inquired into the sufficiency of sureties in 60 and 75 matters, respectively, in which administration bonds were executed.

150. The number of appeals from the original to the appellate side of the court pending at the commencement of 1910 was 63, and 77 new appeals were preferred. Of these appeals, 18 were dismissed for default and 78 were decided; the decrees of the court of first instance were affirmed in 46 cases, modified in 9 and reversed in 20. Three cases were remanded for re-trial. Forty-four appeals remained undecided at the close of the year, none of which had been pending for more than two years.

151. Eleven cases transferred from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes under section 39 of the Presidency Small Cause Court Act, 1882, were pending at the commencement of the year, and during the year 7 applications under that section were made to the High Court for transfer to that court. All the applications were granted. Of the 18 cases for disposal, 2 were decreed and 2 dismissed after trial, 1 was dismissed for default and 1 was settled in court. The remaining 12 cases were pending at the close of the year. Three applications under section 115 of the Code of Civil Procedure for the calling up of records from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes were pending at the commencement of the year, and 36 such applications were made to the High Court during the year. Of these, 9 applications were refused, in 8 cases the rules issued were discharged and in 4 cases the records were called for and the High Court directed re-hearing by the Calcutta Small Cause Court. Eighteen cases were pending at the close of the year.

152. The number of cases pending in the insolvency court at the commencement of the year was 385, and the number instituted during the year was 160. Two petitions were restored during the year. Of the 577 cases for disposal, 167 were decided, the adjudication being set aside or superseded, or the petition being withdrawn or dismissed, in 45 cases, and the insolvents obtaining relief in 122. Of the persons who sought relief in the cases disposed of, 88 were traders within the meaning of section 9 of the repealed Indian Insolvency Act, 1848 (11 & 12 Vict., c. 21), 52 were private persons and 27 were persons employed in public and other offices.

153. The court also disposed of 739 applications of a miscellaneous character.

154. For the hearing of original suits and applications, one Judge sat alone for 36 days, two Judges sat separately and simultaneously for 133 days and three Judges sat separately and simultaneously for 41 days. The insolvent court engaged the time of one Judge for 15 days. Appeals from the original side occupied a bench of two Judges for 53 days.

155. Four appeals from the original side were pending from the previous year, and three were admitted during the year.

156. The receipts and expenditure of the High Court on the original side during 1910 were Rs. 9,92,529-8-2 and Rs. 4,68,768-5-3, respectively.

157. The number of bills taxed during the year was as follows:—

Between party and party	879
„ attorney and client	352

The court-fees for taxation during the year amounted to Rs. 21,950. This sum is also included in the item "Other fees realized by means of stamps."

II.—Civil Courts in the Mufassal subordinate to the High Court.

158. The districts of Manbhum and Singhbhum were removed from the jurisdiction of the Judicial Commissioner of Chota Nagpur and, together with the district of Sambalpur, which was removed from the jurisdiction of the District Judge of Cuttack, were formed into a new district judgeship (styled the judgeship of Manbhum-Sambalpur) with its head-quarters at Purulia, with effect from the 9th March 1910. The statistics of Cuttack include those of Sambalpur, and the statistics of Chota Nagpur those of Singhbhum and Manbhum up to the 9th March. The figures for Manbhum-Sambalpur are from that date.

159. The number of suits instituted in 1910 was 415,715, an increase of 26,277 on the figure of the previous year. The increase occurred in rent and money suits to the extent of 11.3 and 4 per cent. respectively, while there was a decrease of 3.1 per cent. in the institutions of title suits. The number of

rent suits instituted was 214,317, as against 192,513 in 1909. The total value of suits instituted in 1910 amounted to Rs. 2,36,59,650, showing a decrease of over $4\frac{1}{2}$ crores from the total for 1909. The decrease is accounted for by the fact that two title suits, each valued at about three crores, had been instituted in the preceding year. Moreover, the number of suits instituted during the year, which were valued at over a lakh, was smaller than in 1909.

Local distribu-
tion.

160. The number of suits instituted in 1910 was greater than the number instituted in 1909 in all the districts, except Midnapore and Saran. The figures for Cuttack, Chota Nagpur and Manbhum-Sambalpur are excluded from the comparison because of the changes in jurisdiction noted above. The increase was most marked in Purnea, Darbhanga, Bhagalpur, the 24-Parganas, Burdwan and Murshidabad. In all these districts, except Murshidabad, the increase was conspicuous in rent suits, and the reason generally assigned is that, owing to a good harvest, landlords freely resorted to the courts to enforce their dues. The decline in Midnapore occurred chiefly in title suits, and is attributed partly to the fact that a large batch of such suits had been instituted in the previous year in connection with one estate, and partly to the intervention of village panchayets in settling disputes out of court. The fluctuation in Murshidabad is not explained, while that in Saran calls for no notice. The largest number of suits was instituted in the district of the 24-Parganas. In Midnapore and Jessore institutions were between 30,000 and 40,000. The largest number of title suits (5,813) was instituted in Midnapore and the next largest in the 24-Parganas. Institutions were between 20,000 and 30,000 in the districts of Bhagalpur, Nadia, Hooghly, Murshidabad, Purnea and Cuttack, and between 10,000 and 20,000 in Darbhanga, Khulna, Burdwan, Muzaffarpur, Saran, Birbhum, Bankura, Patna and Shahabad. In Manbhum-Sambalpur the institutions were between 5,000 and 10,000. Chota Nagpur with 4,651 and Gaya with 2,973 show the lowest numbers of institutions.

Nature of suits
instituted.

161. The majority of suits instituted were, as usual, for small sums, as the following figures show:—

	Rs.	Suits for money and movables	Suits under the rent law	Title and other suits
Not exceeding	10	15,757	56,872	2,752
	50	74,719	102,628	11,570
	100	20,522	30,243	8,213
	500	29,073	22,081	17,774
Exceeding Rs. 500, for value not stated	3,763	2,493	7,256
Total		153,834	214,317	47,564

In suits for money or movables 58·8 per cent., and in rent suits 74·4 per cent., were for sums less than Rs. 50. In suits under the rent law 98·6 per cent were for the realisation of arrears of rent. Of the suits classified as title suits, 40·7 per cent were mortgage suits, 15·2 suits for immovable property and 5·1 were suits for specific relief. The suits which come under this head represent in value more than two-thirds of the total litigation of the province. Of the 48 suits instituted during the year, which were valued at over a lakh, 45 were title suits and 3 were money suits.

Number and
result of suits
decided.

162. In addition to the 415,715 suits instituted during the year and the 85,663 suits pending trial from the previous year, 8,119 suits were revived or received on remand or review during the year, making a total for disposal of 509,497.

The number decided was 394,860, an increase of 7,722 on the figures of 1909. Of this total, 370,119 were decided by Munsifs, 12,401 by Subordinate Judges, 11,817 by Small Cause Court Judges and 523 by District and Additional Judges. Plaintiffs were unsuccessful in 77,651 cases, or 19·6 per cent., of which 54,642 were dismissed for default; in 59,627 cases, or 17·6 per cent., a compromise was effected, and plaintiffs were successful in 247,579 cases, or 62·8 per cent. The results show little variation from those of the preceding year. Of the 66,317 suits decided on contest, 54,528, or 82·2 per cent.,

resulted in favour of plaintiffs, and 11,789, or 17·8 per cent., in favour of defendants.

163. The percentage of applications for re-trial to the number of cases which were dismissed for default or in which decrees were made *ex parte* was 6·5, the numbers being 15,628 and 240,015, respectively. The applications were successful in 7,095 cases, or 15·3 per cent. Applications for re-trial

164. The number of suits decided by Munsifs showed an increase of 6,344 on the figures of 1909, of which 107 were contested and 6,237 uncontested. The average number of suits disposed of by each Munsif employed throughout the year was 2,079. Disposals under the Small Cause Court procedure formed 26·6 per cent. of the total. The number of contested suits disposed of by Munsifs in 1910 was 59,577, or 16 per cent. of the total. The average number of contested suits decided by each Munsif was 334. In suits under the ordinary procedure decided by Munsifs, the percentage of those contested was 17·4, and in suits under the Small Cause Court procedure 12·3. The number of cases decided by Munsifs under the ordinary procedure shows an increase of 4,316 as compared with 1909. Suits decided by Munsifs.

165. The number of original suits decided by Subordinate Judges in 1910 was 12,401, an increase of 1,011 on the figures of the previous year. The increase was in cases decided both under the ordinary procedure and in the exercise of Small Cause Court powers, and occurred chiefly in uncontested suits. The number of suits decided under the ordinary procedure was 5,218, and under the Small Cause Court procedure 7,183; of these, 46·6 per cent. and 18·5 per cent., respectively, were contested. The percentage of suits decided after contest under the ordinary procedure increased perceptibly, as compared with the previous year. The provincial small cause courts disposed of 11,817 original suits, of which 2,777 were contested. Suits heard by Subordinate Judges and by Small Cause Court Judges.

166. The average duration of suits (contested and uncontested) decided during the past year by the several grades of courts is given in the following statement — Average duration of cases.

		District Judges	Subordinate Judges	Munsifs	Small Cause Court Judges
		Days	Days	Days	Days
Under ordinary procedure	Contested	219	358	174	
	Uncontested	188	202	93	
Under Small Cause Court procedure	Contested	...	73	63	63
	Uncontested	..	49	42	42

The results show a slight decrease in the duration of contested suits under the ordinary procedure, and an increase in the duration of uncontested suits under the same procedure, before District Judges. The increase in the duration of cases decided by Subordinate Judges and Munsifs is very noticeable and indicates inefficiency in the arrangement and control of work. The results as regards Small Cause Court Judges are almost the same as in the preceding year.

167. The number of suits pending at the close of the year was 114,912, as against 85,663 in the previous year. The increase of the pending file is due to the very large increase in the number of institutions during the year. Of the pending cases, 1,855 had been pending for more than a year, 11,111 for more than six months, and 52,947 for more than three months. The figures show a considerable increase in the long-pending arrears. Of the suits pending over one year, 1,396 were in the courts of Munsifs and 459 in the courts of District and Subordinate Judges, the figures showing an increase of 1,239 and 22, respectively, on the figures for 1909. Pending suits

The number of suits pending over a year was largest in Patna (721), Nadia 302, Khulna 213, Burdwan 120, the 24-Parganas 111, Muzaffarpur 87 and Hooghly 57. In Patna and Nadia the greater number of long-pending suits consisted of analogous rent suits. The increase in Khulna is accounted for by the smaller staff employed during the year, and also by numerous adjournments given on the application of the parties. The increase in Burdwan is considerable, but the majority of the suits were pending either at the request of the parties or for the decision of material issues in the

appellate court In the 24-Parganas, most of the suits belonged to the superior courts, and the delays in many cases were due to unavoidable causes. There was a perceptible increase in the long-pending file at Muzaffarpur, but it is noticed that the number of suits decided after contest in this district was larger than in the preceding year. The further reduction in the long-pending file in Hooghly is satisfactory. Additional assistance was given to those districts where the arrears appeared to be beyond the control of the permanent staff.

Execution pro-
ceedings

168. There were 58,043 applications for execution of decrees pending from the previous year, and 258,935 applications were made during the year. Realization was complete in 89,646 cases and partial in 54,252. In 102,599 cases proceedings were returned as infructuous, and 65,048 remained pending at the close of the year. Execution proceedings were markedly unsuccessful in Chota Nagpur and Cuttack, the percentages of totally infructuous proceedings being 57.4 and 55.7, respectively. The reduction in the percentage in Cuttack from 61.6 to 55.7 is, however, noticeable. The total amount realised in courts other than small cause courts was Rs. 1,49,37,687. Debtors were imprisoned in 158 cases, movable property was sold in 5,127 and immovable in 41,460.

Miscellaneous
cases

169. The number of miscellaneous cases of a judicial nature instituted fell from 53,452 in 1909 to 50,726. The number decided also decreased from 53,884 to 52,329 and the number pending from 12,703 to 11,528. Of the cases decided 23,151 were withdrawn, compromised or admitted, 13,249 were decided *ex-parte*, and 15,929 were contested. Of the total number of applications decided after contest, 51.4 per cent. were granted. Of the pending cases, 32 had been pending more than a year, of which the largest number was in the 24-Parganas (17).

The miscellaneous cases of a non-judicial nature instituted during the year were 9,913 in number, showing a decrease of 1,505, as compared with the preceding year. Of these, over two-thirds were applications for the deposit of rent. Disposals numbered 10,004, and the pending file fell from 1,343 to 1,247. The number of applications for the deposit of rent was, as usual, highest in Hooghly (1,646), followed by the 24-Parganas (705), Midnapore (555), Shahabad (501), Muzaffarpur (453) and Bhagalpur (393). The decrease in the number of applications from 605 to 393 in Bhagalpur is noticeable.

III.—Calcutta Small Cause Court.

Number of
suits

170. The number of suits instituted and decided in the Presidency Court of Small Causes during 1910, and the number pending at its close, were 22,947, 24,228 and 2,988, respectively. Institutions and disposals show a decrease of 874 and 1,025, respectively, on the previous year's figures, and the number of pending suits was more than in 1909 by 348. The total value of the litigation in the court was Rs. 42,17,037 during the year, as against Rs. 42,69,872 in the preceding year.

Mode of
disposal.

171. Of the 24,228 suits decided during the year, 1,978 were dismissed for default or want of prosecution or were withdrawn with leave, 18,875 were decided without contest in the manner shown in the margin, 3,373 were decided after contest or upon reference to arbitration, and in 2 the plaint was either rejected or returned.

Compromised	5,990
Decreed on confession	3,989
Decreed <i>ex-parte</i>	8,881
Dismissed <i>ex-parte</i>	15
Total	18,875

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

1.—High Court.

Appeals under
the Letters
Patent

172. Seventy-seven appeals under section 15 of the Letters Patent were filed during the year, and 63 were pending at its commencement. Of the total 96 were decided and 44 remained pending at the close of the year. The number of appeals decided was 40 more than in 1909. Of the number undecided, none were pending for more than two years. Ninety-seven third appeals were filed during the year, and 141 were pending at its commence-

ment. Of these, 87 were decided and 151 remained pending at the close of the year.

II.—Appeals from the Subordinate Civil Courts.

173. The number of first and second appeals from the decrees and orders of the provincial courts as courts of original and appellate jurisdiction, respectively, which came before the High Court and were decided during the year, is shown in the margin.

	Pending at the end of 1909	Pre-ferred.	Decided	Pending at the end of 1910
FIRST APPEALS.				
From decrees ...	1,316	595	448	1,463
From orders ...	413	364	297	480
SECOND APPEALS.				
From decrees ...	4,597	4,329	2,844	6,082
From orders ..	225	255	226	251
Total .	6,551	5,543	3,815	8,279

Appeals to the High Court from subordinate courts.

The figures include appeals from the courts of the province of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The institutions of first appeals from orders and of second appeals from decrees were, respectively, 14 and 991 more than in 1909. The numbers of first appeals

from decrees and of second appeals from orders, on the other hand, were by 8 and 3, respectively, than in the preceding year.

174. At the close of the year, there were pending 1,943 first appeals, of which 1,463 were from decrees and 480 from orders, and 6,336 second appeals, of which 6,082 were from decrees. The total was more than the number pending at the close of 1909 by 1,728.

175. Of the 448 appeals from original decrees decided during the year, 38 were uncontested, being dismissed on default, withdrawn or compromised. The result of the appeals decided after contest was that the decrees of the lower courts were confirmed in 259 cases, reversed in 69 and varied in 50, while 32 cases were remanded. Of the 2,844 appeals from appellate decrees decided during the year, 342 were uncontested, and 1,073 were dealt with under Order XLI, rule 11 of the Civil Procedure Code. One thousand four hundred and twenty-nine were heard and determined, with the result that 800 decrees of the lower courts were affirmed, 134 reversed and 97 varied, while 398 cases were remanded. Of the 523 appeals from orders decided during the year, 16 were uncontested, 105 were dealt with under Order XLI, rule 11 of the Civil Procedure Code, and 402 were decided after trial, with the result that 211 orders of the lower courts were affirmed, 83 reversed and 26 varied, 82 cases being remanded. The following table shows the result of appeals decided by the High Court as affecting District Judges and Subordinate Judges:—

	AFFIRMED.		MODIFIED OR REVERSED.	
	District Judges	Subordinate Judges.	District Judges.	Subordinate Judges
Appeals from { original decrees ...	68	191	34	85
{ appellate " .	411	389	135	96
Miscellaneous appeals " .	87	123	73	36

One miscellaneous appeal from the order of a Munsif was decided by the High Court the order was affirmed.

176. At the opening of the year 46 appeals to the Privy Council were under preparation for despatch to England, and 37 were pending for orders. One hundred and six new appeals (including four sets of analogous appeals) were filed during the year. Of the total for disposal, 45 were struck off or compromised, 21 were despatched to England and 123 appeals—1 of 1902, 6 of 1907, 28 of 1908, 10 of 1909 and 78 of 1910—were pending at the close of the year. Of the pending appeals, 38 were under preparation for despatch to England at the close of the year.

177. The results of 7 appeals to the Privy Council were received during the year. The decisions of the High Court were affirmed in 5 instances and reversed in 2.

Appeals to the Privy Council.

Results of appeals to the Privy Council.

III.—Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

Appeals
instituted

178. There were 12,710 appeals instituted in 1910, a decrease, as compared with the previous year, of 778. The decrease in appellate work contrasts strongly with the large increase in the original work of the courts. Of the appeals instituted in 1910, 5,791 were in title suits, 5,484 in rent suits and 1,435 in suits for money or moveables. There was thus a slight increase in the institutions of appeals in title suits, but an appreciable decrease in the other two classes. The total value of the appeals was Rs. 28,17,485, being less than the total of 1909 by over Rs. 76,000. The number of appeals instituted in 1910 was smaller than in the previous year in 12 districts and larger in 6, while in the case of three districts—Cuttack, Chota Nagpur and Manbhum-Sambalpur—no comparison is possible. The largest decreases were in Khulua (543), Jessore (322), Hooghly (298), Darbhanga (275), Shahabad (157), Murshidabad (146) and Gaya (131). The decrease in most of these districts was due to a fall in the number of appeals preferred against the decisions of settlement officers. The noticeable increases were in Patna (756), where the number of rent appeals rose considerably, Midnapore (242) and Nadia (100). In the remaining districts the variations were less than 100.

Appeals
decided

179. The number of appeals decided (13,405) was more by 249 than in 1909. Disposals increased in the courts of District and Additional Judges by 467, but fell in those of Subordinate Judges by 218, as compared with the previous year. The number of appeals disposed of after contest (10,959) was 51 more than in 1909. The increase in disposals was spread over 8 districts, and was greatest in Hooghly (442), Gaya (282) and Jessore (221). In Hooghly and Gaya the result is largely due to the greater outturn of the District Judges. The noticeable decreases, on the other hand, were in Murshidabad (322), Burdwan (305) and Nadia (263). The falling off in disposals in Murshidabad is explained by the fact that a large number of settlement appeals were decided in the previous year, while in Burdwan the decrease is due to the heavier criminal work coming before the District Judge and to the smaller staff employed during the year.

Appeals
pending.

180. There were 7,829 appeals pending at the close of the year, the number being 229 less than at the end of 1909. The number of appeals pending for more than one year increased from 304 in 1909 to 307 at the close of the year under review.

Results of
appeals.

181. The result of the appeals from the decisions of the lower courts, which were decided during the year, was as follows.—In 7,134 cases, or 53·2 per cent. of the whole, the judgment of the lower court was affirmed; in 1,650 cases, or 12·3 per cent., it was modified; and in 2,184, or 16·3 per cent., it was reversed. Seven hundred and thirty-one appeals, or 5·5 per cent., were remanded, and 1,706, or 12·7 per cent., were either not prosecuted, or dismissed for default. The results are more favourable to the lower courts than those of the preceding year.

General.

182. The most marked feature of the year's working was the very large increase in the number of original suits instituted in the mufassal courts. The arrears consequently rose in spite of a substantial increase in the outturn of work. The pending appellate file was slightly reduced. It is satisfactory to observe that District and additional District Judges disposed of a larger amount of civil work, both original and appellate. Subordinate Judges decided fewer appeals, but their outturn of original work increased. Institutions on the appellate side of the High Court rose still higher than before, and, although more cases were decided, the arrears were considerably in excess of those of 1909.

Inspection.

183. The courts of 12 Subordinate Judges and 62 Munsifs were inspected by District Judges during the year.

Receipts and
charges of the
civil courts

184. The receipts of the civil courts for the year under review amounted to Rs. 93,86,710, an increase of Rs. 6,14,393 on those of the previous year, and the charges to Rs. 43,72,286, a decrease of Rs. 5,027 from those of 1909. Inclusive of the amount realised on account of duty* on probates, etc., there was a profit to the Government from civil litigation of Rs. 50,14,424, or Rs. 6,49,420 more than in 1909, and, exclusive of the item referred to, the surplus amounted to Rs. 44,69,691.

	Rs
In the High Court	(a) 4,04,319
In other courts	(a) 1,40,414
	<u>* 5,44,733</u>

(a) The figures are for the financial year 1910-11.

CIVIL JUSTICE IN SCHEDULED DISTRICTS.

185. The total number of suits instituted during the year in the civil courts in the scheduled districts of Angul (including Khondmals) and the Sonthal Parganas was 16,529, as against 14,992 in 1909. The number of suits for money or movable property was 8,412, of rent suits 7,143, and of title and other suits 974. The total number of civil suits for disposal, was 18,412. The number disposed of was 15,420, including two transferred to courts in other provinces. Of these, 3,332 suits were contested and 364 were disposed of by arbitration. The number of miscellaneous cases was 604 of which 530 were disposed of. The total number of appeals from decrees was 631, and the number disposed of 571. Out of 158 miscellaneous appeals, 145 were decided. Fifteen thousand one hundred and seventy-nine applications were made for execution of decrees, of which 11,965 were disposed of.

Registration.

[Triennial Report on the Administration of the Registration Department for the years 1908, 1909 and 1910 Statistics of British India, Part II.—Commercial, Part VI.—Administrative and Judicial]

186. The reorganization of the department, which was commenced during the previous triennium, was brought to completion during the last three years. In 1908, the system of recruitment was organized on the basis of local nomination by Commissioners. By this means local needs are satisfied, and a good class of candidates is obtained. Although the Intermediate Examination in Arts was fixed as the educational qualification, yet one candidate in five has been a graduate. The revision of the Registration Manual was undertaken. The provision of suitable buildings for registration offices throughout the province has been prominently brought to the notice of Government, and it has been decided that this matter should receive particular attention when the Budget of 1912-1913 is being framed. The head office establishment of the Inspector-General was reorganized at an additional annual cost of Rs. 5,325. Menial establishments have also been provided for all salaried Sub-Registrars throughout the province, at an annual cost of Rs. 18,474; and the clerical staff of officers, who are still paid by commission, has been placed on the same footing as that of salaried Sub-Registrars.

187. In comparison with the period 1905 to 1907, there was an increase in all branches of administration in the period 1908 to 1910. Eight new offices were opened; compulsory registrations affecting immovable property increased by 14.5 per cent.; and optional registrations of the same nature by 9.9 per cent, while the total increase in the number of documents registered was from 2½ million to over 3 million documents. In comparing the two periods of three years, it is found that receipts have increased by 16.2 per cent. and expenditure by 26.6 per cent., while the net surplus has risen by 5.4 per cent. from 16.96 lakhs to 17.89 lakhs. There was, however, a striking decrease in 1910, compared with 1908, both in the number of documents and in the aggregate value of immovable property affected; the latter decreased from 23.21 crores to 18.05 crores. This decrease in registration is ascribed to the removal of the stress of high prices during the last two years of the triennium; to the operations of the amendments in the special tenancy laws for the Sonthal Parganas and Chota Nagpur; and to the completion of the settlement proceedings in some districts.

188. Some interesting developments are reported from the different parts of the province. In Calcutta, there was in 1908 an increase in registration owing to brisk trade in coal; then followed a slight depression in 1909; and since then registrations have maintained their level. The increase in bonds in the Midnapore district during 1910,—a year of plenty,—is ascribed by the Inspector-General to a keener struggle for existence among the professional classes. Again, in the 24-Parganas, it is said that prosperity has evolved a spirit of speculation which, in spite of successive satisfactory outturns of

harvests, increased registration. In the district of Nadia the petty ten-
holders have fixed their eyes ahead on the future cadastral survey of the
district, and are taking leases from their under-tenants to prevent the acqui-
sition of occupancy rights.

In the Bihar districts, improved agricultural conditions in 1910 produced
a large decrease in the number of registrations. Co-operative Credit Societies
in Purnea and Champaran, and Grain Banks in the Sonthal Parganas,—all
contributed to the decrease in registration in 1910. The Chota Nagpur
Tenancy Act, VI of 1908, imposed restrictions in that division on the transfers
of certain tenancies; and there was accordingly a marked decrease in the total
number of registrations, notwithstanding the fact that it was found that many
deeds had been registered in contravention of the terms of the Act. In
Singhbhum district alone there was an increase of registrations, which was
ascribed to the settlement of waste lands and to the resettlement of lands
surrendered to headmen in the pargana of Dhalbhum. This kind of transaction
appears to be a device on the part of influential tenants to avoid a regular sale,
which is now forbidden by the law. In this district doubts have been expressed
whether the sections of the Act forbidding sale are operating to the advantage
of the tenants. As in Bihar, so in Orissa, the good harvests of 1909 and
1910 compensated for the deficiencies of 1907 and 1908, and registrations
decreased proportionately. In Sambalpur, a practice has been discovered
whereby the limited transfer of holding under the Central Provinces Tenancy
Act of 1898 is being evaded by the device of a lease.

Under Act I of 1907, amending the Bengal Tenancy Act, it was declared
that the fees for registration of permanent tenures should include the cost of
the transmission of the landlord's fee to the landlord. It is curious, however,
that while this extra fee has led to the increase of cash receipts, yet there has
been a decrease in the actual number of registrations of transfers of permanent
tenures. The decrease in landlords' fees occurred chiefly in the districts of
Bihar.

Prosecutions
and sale
transactions
affecting
estates, &c.

189. Compared with the previous triennium, prosecutions decreased
from 101 to 63; and it is satisfactory to learn that the system of finger impres-
sions continued to have a deterrent effect on false personation. In comparing
the figures showing the number of sale transactions affecting estates, tenures
and raiyati holdings, it is interesting to observe that greater activity was
displayed by the raiyats in purchasing different kinds of properties, and that
they have been able to maintain their ground against the encroachment of the
money-lender. The purchase of occupancy rights by *mahajans* decreased from
64,286 to 56,466, while, on the other hand, the purchase of such holdings by
raiya increased from 391,425 to 486,482. As regards entire revenue-paying
estates, the number of purchases by *mahajans* rose from 576 to 827.

Working of the
Indian
Companies Act,
VI of 1882.

190. The number of companies limited by shares at the close of the
year was 568, with an aggregate nominal capital of Rs. 79,54,17,454 and an
aggregate paid-up capital of Rs. 25,25,45,756, as against 548 companies, with
a nominal capital of Rs. 48,63,58,954 and an issued paid-up capital of
Rs. 24,90,12,326 in the previous year. The total number of companies
limited by guarantee existing at the close of the year under report was 25,
as against 23 in the previous year.

The number of new companies limited by shares, registered, was 50, with
a total nominal capital of Rs. 31,39,59,000 and paid-up capital of Rs. 62,500.
The total number of new companies limited by guarantee registered was two
only, as against three in the preceding year. One hundred and fourteen com-
panies increased their capital during the year, two companies increased their
nominal capitals, 70 companies increased their paid-up capitals, two companies
increased their nominal and paid-up capitals, 39 companies increased their
issued-nominal and paid-up capitals, and the remaining one company increased
its nominal and issued-nominal and paid-up capitals. One company reduced
its nominal capital during the year.

Twenty-five companies, limited by shares, wound up their business during
the year, of which one native Provident Fund Company, the Swadeshi
Assurance and Wedding Company, Limited, was written off. Eight com-
panies submitted their final reports, of which five went into liquidation during
the year under review and three in the previous year.

191. The following seven societies were registered under Act XXI of 1860 during the year, viz.—

- (1) Arya Pratinidhi Sabha, Bihar, Bengal. (2) The Professional Nurses' Society. (3) Ram Mohan Library. The Imperial Indian Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. (5) Orissa Pradeshastha Kayastha Sabha. (6) Uttar-rarhi Kayastha Hitakari Sabha. (7) Calcutta Free Hospital.

The fees realized during the year amounted to Rs. 15,936-14, against Rs. 12,565-8 realized in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 3,371-6. The provisions of section 69 of the Act were complied with by most of the companies as far as could be ascertained.

None of the companies at work during the year under report made use of the provisions of the Indian Companies Branch Register Act IV of 1900.

192. Thirty-one Brahmo marriages were registered during the year, as compared with 21 in 1909. Twenty were registered in Calcutta, four in Howrah, two in Deoghar and one each in Burdwan, Cuttack, Palamau, Giridih and Darjeeling. Of the 17 Marriage Registrars under the Act and 24 *ex-officio* Marriage Registrars, only 10 Marriage Registrars and two *ex-officio* Marriage Registrars registered marriages during the year. The age of the bridegrooms ranged from about 21 to 34 and that of the brides from 14 to 33 years. Three widows aged 18, 24 and 26 years were re-married.

193. In the year under review, Act I (B.C.) of 1876 (an Act for the voluntary registration of Muhammadan Marriages and Divorces) was, as in the three preceding years, in force in 18 districts in Bengal. No new registration office was opened during the year. Registrations took place in 95 offices, and no work was done in the remaining 30 offices. The total number of ceremonies registered during the year rose from 3,790 to 4,002. The increase is most marked in the Presidency and Burdwan divisions and is due to greater appreciation on the part of the registering public of the benefits of registration.

Municipal Department and Local Self-Government.

MUNICIPALITIES OUTSIDE CALCUTTA.

[Reports from the Commissioners of Divisions on the working of Municipalities in Bengal (except Calcutta) during the year 1910-11 Statistics of British India, Part VIII.—Local Funds]

194. There was no change in the number of municipalities in existence during the year, which continued to be 130, but the population within municipal limits rose from 2,386,939 to 2,561,409. The statistics in the Burdwan and Patna divisions are of the census of 1901; elsewhere of that of 1911. It is noticeable, however, that, according to the recent enumeration, the municipalities in the Patna and Tirhut divisions showed a net decrease in the number of their inhabitants, which is attributed to the prevalence of plague.

195. General elections of Commissioners were held in ten municipalities, as against 53 in the previous year. The percentage of attendance of voters was fair, possibly owing to the fact that in seven instances the elections occurred in the Presidency division. It is disappointing that the towns of Sitamarhi and Charbasa evinced little interest in the newly-bestowed privilege of the right to choose their own representatives. Serious malpractices were reported in the case of one ward in Muzikatala.

196. The total number of meetings held was 2,067, and only the municipalities of Ramjibanpore (7) and South Dum-Dum (9) showed a noticeable shortage from the minimum standard of one meeting per mensem. The average percentage of attendance at each meeting was on the whole fairly satisfactory, but Ranaghat (35 per cent.), Jangipur (38), Sarsaram (38), Bhagalpur (37) and Purulia (35) can scarcely pride themselves upon the degree of interest evinced by their members in their proceedings.

197. The total number of rate-payers rose from 420,364 to 425,701, but the proportion of the population assessed is still remarkably low in the instances

noted below, and the District Officers concerned have been requested to satisfy themselves that there are good reasons for the apparent failure to distribute equitably the burden of taxation :—

Name of municipality	Percentage of rate-payers to population.
Raniganj	9.8
Garden Reach	8.5
Titagarh	3.4
Garulia	5.2
Bhatpara	5.9
Deoghar	7.6
Sahebganj	8.5

Assessment and taxation

198. There was little change in the methods of taxation in force, the number of municipalities which adopt the tax on persons continuing to be somewhat in excess of those in which the system of assessment by holdings is in force. A latrine-rate was levied in 99 municipalities, a water-rate in 14 and a lighting-rate in 4. The average incidence of taxation for the whole province was Re. 1-7-9 as compared with Re. 1-8-10 during 1909-10, and the variations between different divisions are analogous to those which formed the subject of comment in connection with the reports of the preceding year. The decrease in the provincial figure is more apparent than real, and is more than accounted for by the fact that the population upon which the calculation is based (except in the Burdwan and Patna divisions other than the district of Howrah) is that of the census of 1911. The figures, however, accentuate the lightness of taxation in the Presidency Division.

Revision of assessment

199. The assessment was revised in 89 municipalities, with noticeably satisfactory results in the following instances :—

	Increase of revenue.
	Rs.
Garden Reach	44,618
Maniktala	26,596
Ranohi	10,883
Muzaffarpur	8,911
Patna	6,988
Cuttack	5,971
Howrah	4,787
Bhatpara	3,865
Chapra	3,735
Purulia	3,183
Gaya	2,683
Nadia	2,591

In only one case (that of the Taki Municipality) the assessment was found to be inadequate and inequitable, but the Arrah Municipality again postponed the revision of its assessment pending the completion of the drainage scheme, and it has been ordered that the matter shall be dealt with at once, since a further postponement cannot be permitted. The Local Government has already liberally assisted the town in various matters, and unless the municipality proceeds forthwith to help itself these grants will be withdrawn.

Collections.

200. The percentage of the total collections on current demand was 95.8 in comparison with 97.4 in the previous year. This unsatisfactory result was common to all divisions except Patna and Tirhut, the largest falling off being returned by the Presidency (5.8) and Orissa (5.3). Of individual municipalities those showing the best results were Debhatta (133.7), Buxar (115.4), Jamalpur (115.2), Chandrakona (110.2), and Tikari (107.3), but only 19 municipalities, as against 20 in the preceding year, were able to show collections of cent. per cent. and over. The percentage of total remissions on current demand (3.0) remained practically the same as in the previous year, but the provincial figure was greatly exceeded in the Monghyr (13.58), Revelganj (13.5), South Suburban (12.7) and Debhatta (11.8) Municipalities. The aggregate outstanding balances rose from Rs. 1,86,675 to Rs. 2,38,521, the increase being shared by all the divisions except those of Tirhut and Burdwan. Excluding the Garden Reach Municipality (the short collection in which was

due to a dispute with the Port Commissioners touching certain items), the largest outstanding balances were returned by the towns of Burdwan (Rs. 29,222), Patna (Rs. 11,943) and Maniktala (Rs. 11,668). No less than

* Burdwan.
Hooghly-Chinsura
Serampore
Cossipore-Chitpore
Maniktala.
Garden Reach.

Patna.
Arrah
Darbhanga
Bhagalpur.
Balasore.
Puri

12% out of 130 municipalities in the province

showed outstanding balances of Rs. 5,000 or more, while in Burdwan the outstanding balance was as much as 27 per cent. of the current demand. The municipalities of Burdwan, Hooghly, Serampore,

Arrah, Darbhanga and Balasore were unfavourably

mentioned in this respect last year also, but apparently without result, and it is regretted that collections in the town of Darbhanga are apparently relapsing into the state of confusion from which they were rescued with difficulty some years ago. With municipal revenues made up, as they are, of a multitude of petty items, it cannot be too strongly insisted upon that the only hope of efficient collections is promptitude in realising what can be paid and the writing off forthwith of what is irrecoverable; the accumulation of heavy arrears upon the books impedes the administration at every turn, and it is well worthwhile to employ a temporary special staff if the accounts can thereby be brought up to date.

201. The total receipts of the municipalities in the province, including the opening balances, amounted to Rs. 87,66,333, as compared with Rs. 80,82,914 in 1909-10. The increase occurred chiefly under the following heads:—

	Increase Rs.
Opening balance	2,82,578
Municipal rates and taxes	1,18,912
Revenue derived from municipal property and powers...	20,386
Sources other than taxation—Loans and advances ...	2,16,092

The total disbursements amounted to Rs. 67,61,717, as against Rs. 62,16,193 in the preceding year. The principal increase was Rs. 4,80,100 under advances (other than permanent advances), which was due chiefly to the deposit of the surplus balance of the Howrah Municipality with the Bank of Berghal; excluding "Extraordinary and Debt," the total expenditure declined by Rs. 1,83,491.

202. The closing balances rose from Rs. 18,66,721 in 1909-10 to Rs. 20,04,616 at the close of the year under review. As observed last year, the bulk of this increase represents the unspent balances of loans and contributions received by different municipalities from Government. The largest balances were held by Monghyr (Rs. 2,25,618), Puri (Rs. 2,01,229) and Howrah (Rs. 1,71,360).

INCOME.

203. The total income of the year, excluding that under the heads of "Opening balance" and "Extraordinary and Debt," amounted to Rs. 55,62,397, showing an increase of Rs. 1,84,749 over the figures of the preceding year. Details of the main items of revenue are given below.

204. The bulk of the increase (Rs. 51,098, under the head "Tax on houses and lands" was contributed by the municipalities of Maniktala (Rs. 8,337), Jamalpur (Rs. 6,520), Monghyr (Rs. 6,406), Muzaffarpur (Rs. 5,341) and Rapchi (Rs. 3,786).

205. The income from tolls on roads and ferries continues to decline, and fell by Rs. 1,811, in continuation of decreases of Rs. 1,109 in 1909-10 and Rs. 3,526 in 1908-09. The matter appears to call for attention, since recent years have been favourable, and there should have been no difficulty in realising good rents. Marked fluctuations occurred in the municipalities of Muzaffarpur, Monghyr, Bhagalpur and Cuttack. In Muzaffarpur an increase of Rs. 2,295 was due to settlements at higher rates, compared with a loss of Rs. 4,995 in the previous year. In Monghyr the decrease of Rs. 4,834 was mainly due to the settlement of the Rajghat ferry at a reduced annual rental for a period of five years, in compensation for which Government sanctioned a

special grant of Rs. 5,000 for five years. The failure on the part of the farmers of the Bhagalpur station ferry to pay a sum of Rs. 5,750 accounts for the decrease in that town. The increase of Rs. 2,599 in Cuttack was due to the realisation of arrears.

Water-rate

206. As in the previous year, a water-rate was levied in 14 municipalities, and the total receipts showed an increase of Rs. 4,348. The most noticeable improvement occurred in Maniktala, where the revision of assessment brought in an increase of Rs. 5,839. The improvement of the supply in the South Suburban Municipality was in process, and was liberally assisted by Government; with its completion it is hoped that the difficulties previously experienced in realising the rate will cease. Model rules for adoption, where house connections are given, have been framed by Government, and their use should tend to improve the income from this source and at the same time prevent waste, but the tendency to grant such concessions too lavishly should be guarded against.

Lighting-rate

207. The small falling off of Rs. 1,770 under this head calls for no remarks.

Conservancy, including scavenging and latrine-rates

208. The total income under conservancy showed an increase of Rs. 47,169, and was shared by all divisions, noticeably Patna (Rs. 12,295) and Tirhut (Rs. 11,981). The receipts from the sale of night-soil and disposal of refuse and street sweepings fell from Rs. 7,089 in the previous year to Rs. 6,397, and only 30 municipalities returned figures under this head, although the revenue should be capable of expansion with proper management.

Tax on persons according to property and tax on profession

209. Under the former head the receipts rose by Rs. 11,203, the increase being common to all divisions, except Orissa and Chota Nagpur. Under the latter the receipts fell slightly by Rs. 1,327.

Receipts under the Hackney-carriage Act.

210. Fifty-six municipalities, as compared with 60 in the previous year, derived an income from hackney-carriage receipts, the aggregate amount showing an improvement of Rs. 1,115 over the revenue of the previous year. The four municipalities against which receipts were shown in the preceding year, but none during the year under review, were Kotrung, Satkhira, Hajipur and Darjeeling, but no explanation of the omission is at present forthcoming.

Prevention of cruelty to animals.

211. The fines realised under Act I (B.C.) of 1869 or Act XI of 1890 (aggregating Rs. 8,300) were credited to the municipalities concerned, except in Howrah and Darjeeling, where they were made over to the local branch of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Grants from Provincial and Local Funds and contributions from private individuals.

212. The net receipts under this head fell from Rs. 10,36,444 in 1909-10 to Rs. 10,28,748. The most noticeable grants made by Government during the year were to the municipalities of Hooghly-Chinsura (Rs. 70,000 for water-supply), Darjeeling (Rs. 30,000 for drainage), Serampore (Rs. 20,000 for water-supply), Ranaghat (Rs. 19,000 for drainage), Berhampore (Rs. 16,000 for drainage), and Puri (Rs. 15,000 for drainage). Among private donors the following are deserving of special mention: the Maharajadhiraj Bahadur of Burdwan contributed Rs. 80,000 towards the construction of a new hospital building at Burdwan, in addition to lands and buildings; Raja Jogendra Narain Ray Bahadur, of Lalgola, made a donation of Rs. 1,20,000 towards the improvement of the Berhampore Hospital; Raja Kristo Das Law and his brothers subscribed Rs. 80,200 towards the water-supply scheme of the Hooghly-Chinsura Municipality, and in aid of a similar project at Serampore the Hon'ble Rai Kisor Lal Goswami Bahadur (who has since received the title of Raja) and his family contributed Rs. 40,000, as well as lands for the drainage of the Bhatpara Municipality to the value of Rs. 10,000. Towards the latter scheme Messrs. Duncan Brothers, Messrs. Jardine, Skinner & Co., and Messrs. Ernsthause, Limited, gave an aggregate of Rs. 20,267. The Hon'ble Maharaja Manindra Chandra Nandi, of Cossimbazar, made a grant of Rs. 15,000 to the Berhampore Municipality towards its drainage scheme, and Rs. 8,000 towards the liquidation of its debts. Rai Mahabir Prasad Shah Bahadur made a donation of Rs. 20,000 for the construction of a town hall and municipal office at Chapra in memory of His Majesty the late King-Emperor Edward VII, while a sum

of Rs. 17,500 was contributed by Babus Mahamya Prasad and Bindeswari Prasad, of Darbhanga, for the erection of a memorial town hall at Muzaffarpur.

EXPENDITURE

213. The total expenditure under this head showed a decline of Rs. 2,686. The percentage calculated on the total ordinary expenditure was highest (25·3) in the newly-created municipality of Madhupur, Lohardaga and Debhatta following with 22·7 and 21·9, respectively. The expenditure in the Dhulian Municipality, which showed the high percentage of 39·7 in the previous year, was reduced to 18·5, but since the provincial percentage is 7·6 only, it is not easy to appreciate the necessity for such wide departures from it in isolated instances. Office and collection establishment.

214. Twenty-two municipalities showed expenditure under this head, that incurred by Howrah (Rs. 17,694), Cossipore-Chitpur (Rs. 22,631), Manik-tala (Rs. 2,245) and Garden Reach (Rs. 8,742) representing the amount contributed towards the maintenance of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. In comparison with the expenditure of the previous year there was an increase of Rs. 9,956. Prevention of fire

215. Excluding the municipality of Madhupur, where the expenditure under this head was incurred for the first time during the year under report, and those of Ghatal and Raghunathpur, in respect of which the figures were the same as in the previous year, the expenditure rose in 81 municipalities and fell in 35, resulting in a net falling off of Rs. 19,313. Eleven municipalities, namely, those of Bansberia, North Dum-Dum, North Barrackpore, Gobardanga, Taki, Bimagar, Chakdah, Dhulian, Debhatta, Daudnagar and Jagdispur, did not incur any outlay at all on this important branch of administration. In Cossipore-Chitpur the large decrease of Rs. 9,180 was due to the extension of the system of gas lighting, while in Darjeeling the heavy decline of Rs. 27,178 was due to the fact that the expenditure during the previous year was swollen by the large amount spent on the purchase of new hydro-electric plant. Lighting.

216. The expenditure under capital outlay declined by Rs. 1,28,275, and that under "Establishment, repairs, etc." by Rs. 13,883. The outlay under this head was very small in the Tirhut (Rs. 5,091), Orissa (Rs. 9,316) and Chota Nagpur (Rs. 5,592) divisions, and generally the reports do not indicate with sufficient clearness the towns in which the existing supply is radically defective, and the measures which are being taken to remedy this need. Various accounts are given of work done, which is no doubt advantageous, but a perusal of the paragraphs in question almost leaves the impression that the existing wants are for the most part already met, and it is certainly doubtful whether this can truthfully be said of the province as a whole. In future years attention will have to be directed more especially to those municipalities in which the state of the water-supply still calls for grave complaint, and the local authorities urged to undertake its improvement gradually and systematically, even if only to the extent of one new well a year. At the same time the maintenance of existing sources, and particularly the regular cleansing of them, should be insisted upon. The most important schemes in progress during the year were those at Hooghly-Chinsura, Serampore, Monghyr and Kurseong, and it is hoped that better progress will be made during the current year with the projects under discussion in connection with Khulna, Jessore, Satkhira, Deoghar and Puri. In the last-mentioned work especially great difficulties have been experienced both in its technical design and in the provision of funds. Water-supply.

217. The total capital outlay declined from Rs. 4,14,437 to Rs. 3,22,890, while the expenditure on account of the establishment, repairs, etc., rose from Rs. 1,24,968 to Rs. 1,28,938. Under the former head the municipalities of Howrah, Bhatpara and Arrah incurred the largest expenditure, namely, Rs. 85,274, Rs. 68,655 and Rs. 51,765, respectively. In the Burdwan division various important schemes were hanging fire for different reasons, and it is hoped that better progress will be made with those at Burdwan (under revision), Kalna, Katwa, Suri, Hooghly-Chinsura and Serampore (all delayed for financial reasons) and Asansol (under preparation). In the Presidency division schemes were completed at Khulna, Barasat and Basirhat, while work in the Drainage.

following localities will have to be expedited.—Baranagar, Garulia, Budge-Budge, Baruipur, Bhatpara and Berhampore. A beginning will shortly be made at Ranaghat and Kushtia, while the completion of the Bagjola khal, at Government expense, should now be followed as soon as possible by the linking to it of the various adjoining municipalities. In the Patna division the Arrah project was finished and important works at Gaya are now in hand. In Tirhut it is hoped that some advance will be made at Muzaffarpur, Motihari and Bettiah. In the Bhagalpur division, the most important works in progress are at Monghyr, Darjeeling and Kurseong, but pending proposals at Kishenganj, Sahebganj and Deoghur should be expedited. In Orissa the Puri project was still incomplete and should not be further delayed, while in Chota Nagpur the works at Hazaribagh and Daltonganj demand attention. On the whole, a programme of busy activity is in course of execution throughout the province, but the causes of delay in these matters are legion, and it is only by the unremitting enthusiasm of the local authorities that progress can be achieved.

Conservancy,
including road
cleaning and
road-watering
and latrines

218. The expenditure under this head declined in all divisions except Bhagalpur, Tirhut and Chota Nagpur, the increase of Rs 34,976 in the division first named contributing mainly to a net increase of Rs 303 over the figures of the previous year. The reports of the local officers appear to show that the work of conservancy was generally efficiently performed, but, as in the case of water-supply, when no material departure from the general methods of work is effected from year to year, it is desirable to bring to prominent notice the municipalities in which defects exist, rather than those which are proceeding upon the ordinary lines. The towns of Berhampore and Khulna are singled out as still leaving room for improvement in this respect, but there are no doubt other places in which a higher standard of administration may be desirable.

Hospitals and
dispensaries.

219. The expenditure fell in Tirhut, Bhagalpur and Orissa, but rose in the remaining divisions, resulting in a net increase of Rs. 6,998. This result was conspicuous in Burdwan (Rs. 39,405) owing to the payment of Rs 40,000 as the municipal contribution towards the construction of the new Fraser Hospital. The fluctuations under this head mainly depend upon the amount spent on buildings and repairs from year to year. A new female ward was constructed at Katwa, a pauper shed at Vishnupur, and new dispensary buildings at Khulna and Patna (Bankipore). A new surgical ward attached to the Darbhanga Hospital was under construction, a "contagious ward" was added to the dispensary at Kishenganj, and a new operation-room was constructed in Purnia. The Arrah dispensary was made over to the District Board, but the municipality will continue to pay an annual contribution of Rs. 3,200 to it.

Plague and
other epidemic
disease
charges

220. The expenditure under this head shows a slight decrease of Rs 1,150, and was incurred by 59 municipalities. The severity of the disease during the year was less than usual, but its recrudescence with great severity in Chapra town, which had been immune for three years, was remarkable. The attempt to popularise inoculation in consequence met with no success.

Public works.

221. The expenditure under this head showed an increase of Rs 58,424 over the figures of the previous year. The expenditure on "Establishment" declined from Rs 96,822 to Rs. 94,458, while that on buildings, roads and stores rose from Rs. 91,973, Rs. 5,63,083 and Rs. 5,183 to Rs. 1,19,468, Rs. 5,83,087 and Rs. 18,472, respectively. In twenty-five municipalities in the province the percentage borne by the outlay on public works on the total ordinary expenditure was 25 or more, while it varied from 51.3 in the municipality of Birnagar to 1.3 in Chatia. *Prima facie* the percentage was unduly small in Kalna (2.2), Kurseong (2.8), Monghyr (4.2), Jhaldah (4.4), Suru (4.6), Revelganj (4.6) and Midnapore (4.9), and attention is invited to the point. The municipalities in which special deficiencies were reported in the state of their roads are Midnapore, Halishahar, those of the district of Nadia generally, Berhampore and Patna.

Public
instruction.

222. The total expenditure rose by Rs 3,306, as compared with the previous year, the increase being common to all the divisions except Burdwan and Bhagalpur. The ratio of expenditure on primary education to total

ordinary income varied from 84 in Ramjhanpore to 006 in Howrah, while 40 municipalities spent on primary education less than 3·2 per cent. of their ordinary income. The orders prescribing this percentage as a rigid standard were withdrawn early in the year, but it is hoped that this will not result in the neglect of this important subject.

223. Forty municipalities were in debt at the close of the year, and their total indebtedness, after deducting Rs 22,164, the balance of the sinking fund investments of the Burdwan Municipality on account of loans raised in the open market, amounted to Rs. 40,60,546, as compared with Rs. 39,97,210 in 1909-10. The largest outstanding liabilities were those of Howrah (Rs. 21,58,869), Darjeeling (Rs. 6,07,808), Bhagalpur (Rs. 3,04,526) and Patna (Rs. 2,18,969). Eight municipalities received loans during the year, namely, Bankura (Rs. 11,000 for drainage), Howrah (Rs. 75,000 for drainage), South Barrackpore (Rs. 1,600 for general improvements), Bhatpara (Rs. 30,000 for drainage), Jessore (Rs. 30,000 for water-works), Purnea (Rs. 15,000 for improvement of roads), Darjeeling (Rs. 50,000 for sewerage) and Kunsong (Rs. 35,000 for water-supply).

224. On the 31st March 1911, 78 municipalities, as against 82 in the previous year, had outstanding liabilities on account of unpaid bills and unfinished works amounting to Rs. 1,02,304, which represented 3·5 per cent. of their current demand. It is satisfactory to note that the number of municipalities in which the liabilities exceeded the closing balance fell from 10 to 5, namely, Baduria, Debhatta, Jajpur, Balasore and Chaibasa. The excess was most marked in Balasore, which had liabilities amounting to Rs. 5,590, against a closing balance of Rs. 509. This result is a legacy from recent mismanagement, the effects of which are only gradually being rectified.

225. Embezzlements occurred in the municipalities of Maniktala, Halishahar, Rajpur, Gaya, Monghyr and Sahibganj. Convictions were secured in respect of the defalcations in the Halishahar and Sahibganj municipalities, while in Gaya a trial was in progress. The accounts of the Maniktala Municipality had fallen into most discreditable confusion, and the municipality was instructed by the District Magistrate to prosecute its cashier.

226. Viewing the municipal administration of the year as a whole, it appears that in the Burdwan division the two worst managed towns are Burdwan and Midnapore, though better results might have been expected looking to the state of education in them. Of the Midnapore Municipality in particular, it is said that it has failed to perform its duties efficiently in almost every branch of its work. Uttarpur and Kotrung suffer noticeably from the existence of party feeling, and in the Presidency division a similar remark is made as regards Taki, Baduria and North Dum-Dum. The remarks in this latter division as to the results achieved are generally favourable, though affairs in Maniktala were mismanaged. The District Magistrate of the 24-Parganas characterises the standard of work in the mill and suburban municipalities as, on the whole, remarkably good. The Commissioner comments upon the persistent tendency to raise establishment charges unduly, some Rs. 4,000 having been so added during the year. In the Patna division, looking to the attitude of the Patna Municipality with reference to the imposition of a latrine-tax and its apathy as regards the proposed flushing scheme of which the town was only asked to find about one-fifth of the cost and has hitherto failed to do so, the commendation of the local officers can scarcely be endorsed. The Commissioner of Bhagalpur condemns the administration of the Bhagalpur and Madhupur municipalities, and the administration by the former of their water-works has been noticeably dilatory and unsatisfactory, in spite of liberal assistance given by Government. In the latter it was found necessary to appoint the Subdivisional Officer to be Chairman in order to put an end to quarrels. In Chota Nagpur the management of the municipal offices at Purulia and Chaibassa was lax. Elsewhere the general comments made for the most part recognise the maintenance of a fair standard of efficiency. As stated last year the municipalities of Burdwan, Howrah, Cossipore-Chitpur and Maniktala were allowed a free hand in the preparation of their budgets, and as regards the two latter the Commissioner states that the discretion was not abused. No remarks are offered in the remaining two instances, although the point is one which is deserving of special comment.

Loans

Liabilities.

Audit of accounts and embezzlements

Administration

227. The Bengal Municipal Act (Act III of 1884) has now been in force for rather over a quarter of a century, and some statistics showing the development of municipal government within that period may not be without interest. The total number of municipalities in the Province (as now constituted) has risen from 102 in 1885-86, with a population of 2,226,900, to 130 containing 2,561,409 inhabitants. The proportion of rate-payers (16·6 per cent. during the year under review) has remained remarkably constant. The elective system is now in force in 98 municipalities, in comparison with 83 in 1885-86. The total municipal income (exclusive of the opening balance and receipts under "Extraordinary and Debt") has increased from Rs. 21,33,971 in 1885-86 to Rs. 55,62,397, this result being largely due to enhanced grant and contributions given in recent years. The revenue under rates and taxes has grown from Rs. 16,79,816 to Rs. 38,25,816, but is now only 68 per cent. of the total income, in comparison with 78 per cent. in the earlier year; grants and contributions have sprung from a new base Rs. 29,132, or 1·4 per cent. of the gross income, to Rs. 10,28,748, or 18·5 per cent. It is perhaps not always recognised that municipal resources are aided to this large extent. The receipts from municipal property and powers other than taxation now amount to Rs. 4,92,778 as against Rs. 1,12,467, but realisations under special Acts have made slower progress (from Rs. 69,889 to Rs. 98,372). The total expenditure (excluding "Extraordinary and Debt" and expenditure from loan funds) is now Rs. 47,85,394, in comparison with Rs. 27,00,509 in 1885-86, and the expansion under various main heads will most easily be appreciated from the following figures —

	1885-86.		1910-11	
	Rs.	Percentage of total.	Rs.	Percentage of total.
Establishment .	2,53,161	11·5	3,66,294	7·6
Lighting	1,21,105	5·5	2,92,346	6·1
Water-supply	63,080	2·8	3,75,875	7·8
Drainage	50,046	2·2	4,51,828	9·5
Conservancy .	5,78,553	26·2	14,31,108	30·0
Medical	1,47,141	6·6	6,65,824	13·9
Public Works .	4,90,461	22·2	8,15,485	17·0
Education .	78,567	3·5	1,60,373	3·4

The heads which have shown the largest proportionate development are Water-supply, Drainage and Medical, and 19 municipalities now possess water-works which serve rather over half a million people, and which cost approximately Rs. 48 lakhs, while 20 towns have been provided with improved drainage works at an outlay of some Rs. 16½ lakhs. Much still remains to be done in these directions, but looking to the fact that it is mainly recently that the pace has been quickened under the stimulus of liberal grants-in-aid, an appreciable progress can be chronicled.

The Calcutta Municipality.

[Report on the Municipal Administration of Calcutta for 1910-11. Statistics of British India, Part VIII—Local Fund.]

General.

228. The improvement of the finances of the Corporation was maintained during the year; the surplus of income over expenditure was Rs. 5,88,671, and the closing balance on 31st March 1911 stood at Rs. 13,03,296, as against Rs. 7,14,625 in the preceding year. This is the more satisfactory as for the first time petty works of a permanent nature and the proportion of cost of the general supervising establishment hitherto debited to loan funds have been charged to revenue in accordance with the decision given by Government last year. The Bill for the improvement of Calcutta, which was introduced in the

Bengal Legislative Council during the year, was passed since its close. The Corporation held 59 meetings and appointed 31 special committees. The increase in the number of special and sub-committees is very marked, and has resulted in a more thorough examination of important matters which were overlooked or cursorily dealt with in the past. The most important engineering work of the year was the completion of the raised reservoir at Tallah and the laying of the new steel main from Tallah to Wellington Square. The pressure has improved, and though it cannot be kept up throughout the day, it is hoped that with the installation of the new pumping plant at Tallah it will be possible to provide for a continuous supply of filtered water. The Tolly's Nullah syphon, which links up the sewerage system on the east and west of the Nullah, was also opened during the year. The census of the Municipal population of Calcutta was carried through quietly and successfully on the 10th March; the increase of population disclosed by the provisional figures was 5 per cent only.

229. The revenue receipts of the year amounted to Rs. 86,60,068 and the expenditure to Rs. 78,74,615; Rs. 86,45,367 represented recurring receipts and Rs. 78,49,213 recurring expenditure. The former increased by Rs. 6,50,378, or 8 per cent, and the latter by Rs. 7,34,297, or 10·6 per cent. The increase in the receipts was mainly contributed by the consolidated rates (Rs. 3,30,000), while the principal items causing the increase of expenditure were (1) the execution of minor works out of revenue instead of loan funds as before (Rs. 1,59,000), (2) cessation of oncosting of general supervision charges to loan funds (Rs. 1,42,000), (3) interest on loans (Rs. 1,91,000), and (4) additional outlay on road repairs (Rs. 1,59,000). Against these increases there was a decrease of Rs. 1,40,000 on account of the discontinuance of grain compensation allowances. The actual receipts exceeded the estimates by Rs. 54,487, while the actual expenditure fell short by Rs. 6,48,541 Revenue funds

230. The total income from loan funds was Rs. 32,07,000, of which Rs. 30 lakhs represented loans raised during the year, the remainder accruing mainly from the sale-proceeds of surplus lands. The loans were raised in one instalment in September 1910 at an average rate of Rs. 98-1-7. The payments aggregated Rs. 39,65,000, the principal items being filtered water-supply (Rs. 15,37,000) and construction of sewers (Rs. 13,09,000). The closing balance on 31st March 1911 was Rs. 20,29,000, against an opening balance of Rs. 27,87,000. The aggregate loan liability of the Corporation increased from Rs. 4,76,02,500 to Rs. 4,83,27,500. With the repayment of the 5 per cent. loan of 1880, the last of the loans repayable from Sinking Fund B, a fund constituted out of contributions from the Municipal fund of a sum representing 2 per cent. per annum on the unrepaid balance of all moneys borrowed before the 1st April 1881, was wiped out, and that fund has ceased to exist. The legal borrowing capacity of the Corporation at the end of the year was Rs. 1,27,00,000. This legal capacity is, however, controlled in practice by the actual surplus of receipts over expenditure, which at the end of the year amounted to Rs. 3,01,332, an amount sufficient to finance a loan of Rs. 60½ lakhs, on a calculation of interest and sinking fund contribution at 5 per cent. Loan funds.

231. Wards 7, 8, 17, 18 and 19 were revalued during the year, resulting in a net increase of Rs. 20,88,812 in the valuation of the town. The assessed annual valuation on 31st March 1911 was Rs. 3,54,69,868 against Rs. 2,23,91,143 in 1901. Valuation and assessment.

232. The percentage of collections of the consolidated rate on the net demand was 99·79, as against 99·70 in the preceding year, while the percentage on the gross demand was practically the same as that recorded during the preceding year, namely, slightly over 97. Considerable improvement was also shown in the collection of miscellaneous bills, as the outstandings under this head declined from Rs. 5,560 to Rs. 1,565. The very small number of properties distrained and the still smaller number actually sold show that coercive measures were not resorted to with undue severity. The total collections on licenses rose from Rs. 9,89,413 to Rs. 10,43,322 in the year under report. The percentage of collections on current demand in the case of the tax on trades and professions has risen from 98·62 to 99·56, and in the case of the tax on carriages and horses from 99·65 to 99·79. Collections.

Census.

233. One of the most important events of the year was the taking of the census, to which reference has already been made. The work was carried out by an unpaid agency of about 4,000 enumerators and 400 supervisors. The increase in population, according to the provisional figures, is only 42,697. During the past 10 years deaths have considerably outnumbered the births, and the increase in population, such as it is, is entirely due to immigration.

Bustees.

234. The Bustee Department under the administration of the Deputy Chairman continued to do good work during the year 1910-11. During the six years of its existence the department has opened up a total length of *bustee* roads amounting to 8 miles and constructed 6 miles of sewers and has directed the kerbing and channelling of over 5 miles. These facts serve to show the need for the department and the efficient manner in which the work has been carried out. As tenants are too poor to carry out sanitary improvements and as landlords are unwilling to help them in the matter, *bustees* have had to be removed entirely and the land on which they were situated either laid bare or used for the construction of masonry buildings.

Water-supply.

235. Several important works in connection with the scheme for the improvement of the filtered water-supply have been carried to completion. Two more filters, each 200 feet square, making five in all, have been constructed, and a centrifugal pumping plant for pumping up water from the river into the settling tanks has been constructed. As a result of the construction of the elevated reservoir at Tallan, and the laying of a 6-foot main across the goods yard at Chitpore, and of 6-foot and 5-foot mains along Circular Road and Dhurumtola Street respectively, the Halliday Street and Wellington Square pumping stations were shut down as being no longer required. The daily consumption of filtered water increased from 26,889,000 gallons to 27,979,000 gallons, giving an average of 29.1 gallons per head per day. The quantity of unfiltered water consumed shows a slight decrease, although the supply has been ample for all requirements. The magnitude of this work may be gauged from the fact that there are in the total area served by the Corporation 354 miles of filtered and 246 miles of unfiltered water-supply pipes.

Suburban
Drainage

236. The Tolly's Nullah Syphon, which was opened on 16th July 1910, worked satisfactorily and proved itself self-cleansing and efficient. Several cases of collapse in the main sewer having taken place, a special sub-committee was appointed to enquire into the whole question of the bad construction of the sewer, in the hope of being able to fix the responsibility on the person or persons in fault. It should be noted, however, that only 1,521 feet out of 45 miles of sewers constructed have proved faulty, and that too chiefly at places where the subsoil is exceptionally bad.

Satisfactory progress has been made with the Fringe Area Drainage Scheme, some 13,000 feet with adjuncts having been constructed, making a total of 36,281 feet completed out of about 71,797 feet to be executed.

Roads and
minor
improvements

237. The total expenditure on minor improvements amounted to Rs. 7,82,837, or Rs. 1,30,000 more than in 1909-10. This sum was chiefly devoted to the improvement of roads and footpaths, and to the extension of filtered and unfiltered water-supply mains. Repairs and improvements to the Sir Stuart Hogg Market, the slaughter-house, the workshops and the Central Municipal Office were also carried out at a cost of Rs. 70,000.

The question of a suitable material for road-paving continued to engage the attention of the Corporation, and various experiments were carried out. Indian patent stone slags on the Gladwell system in Clive Street and Lyon's Range, lithofalt in Dalhousie Square, North, and Val de Travers' asphaltic macadam in Dalhousie Square, East, were not entirely successful, and the best results were obtained from a modification of the Gladwell system of tar macadam introduced by Mr. MacCabe. This was put down in Esplanade Road, East, and in a portion of Chowringhee, and provides a comparatively smooth, dustless and noiseless road. Considerable savings in the purchase of road metal were effected by resectioning and cutting down roads to the regulation camber and by utilising the metal so obtained for repairs. A new system of repairing roads by gangs of ten coolies, under the supervision of a special overseer was introduced, with the result that patch repairs were carried out more expeditiously and more efficiently.

Tramways

238. Increased attention has been given by the Commissioners to matters relating to the tramways, and a practice has been introduced of obtaining from District Engineers a monthly statement of defects in tram cars and tram lines, which is sent to the Manager of the Tramways Company for the rectification of defects. This statement, with the Manager's report as to the action taken by the Tramway Company, is laid before the Tramway Committee of the Corporation and then before the Corporation itself. Several cases of injury to passengers have led to the appointment of an electrical expert, who has been directed to make a thorough examination of the electrical gearing and brakes of cars. With a view to stopping rash driving and consequent accidents, the rules regarding the grant of certificates to drivers of tram cars have been amended, so that the Chairman has power to suspend or cancel any driver's certificate of competency.

Conservancy.

239. Conservancy, one of the most important items of municipal administration, has continued to be carefully looked after, and the afternoon service which is so much appreciated has been further extended in the Indian quarters of the town. Better results might, however, be obtained if the present practice of throwing all kinds of refuse into the streets at all hours of the day were more effectually stopped.

Lighting.

240. Four hundred and three new gas lamps were erected during the year, bringing the total number of gas lamps in the town to 10,185. In December 1909 a new contract was made with the Oriental Gas Company under which the Company on the expiry of their existing contract was to supply gas only, while the work of actual lighting was to be taken over by the Corporation, for which a Lighting Department was to be organized. For various reasons the organization of the Lighting Department of the Corporation could not be carried out by the 30th April 1911, on which date the contract with the Gas Company expired, and after some negotiations with the Company it was ultimately decided that there should be an extension of the agreement with the Company and that the Corporation should at once organize its own Lighting Department.

Squares.

241. The satisfactory condition of most of the squares in Calcutta, notably of the College, Cornwallis, Mirzapore, Panch Kootia, Minto and Wellesley Squares, is largely due to an increased provision of funds in recent years for general upkeep and for improvements. A new square in Ekbalpore has been completed at a cost of Rs. 10,978, in which an iron fencing, a summer-house and a durwan's lodge have been erected. The Corporation have also under contemplation proposals to open a square in Chetla and two parks in the northern part of the city. In view of the fact that the existing play-grounds are inadequate for the needs of the youth of the city, the general policy has been to distribute grounds evenly between the various clubs, taking care that no right is conferred or established to the exclusion of the general public. Proposals are under consideration to levy a nominal fee from the clubs using Municipal squares, and to utilise the amounts so realised for the upkeep of the grounds.

Health
Department.

242. The year 1910-11 was one of the healthiest on record, the death-rate being the lowest for over 20 years. The total number of births registered was 17,106, which represents a birth-rate of 19.3 per 1,000, and the total mortality was 23,728, which gives a death-rate of 26.7 per 1,000. The rate of infantile mortality is still very high, as it reached the figure of 273 per 1,000. It is, however, satisfactory to note that while the rate of mortality of infants under 7 days is 107 per 1,000, the rate in the case of infants of mothers attended by Corporation midwives is 41 per 1,000, thereby showing that the mortality is preventable, and that the services of the midwives are of great value. Cholera was responsible for 1,901 deaths (giving a death-rate of 2.2 per 1,000), and small-pox for 48. Enteric fever and diphtheria prevailed to some extent in the north of the town. Malaria appears to have decreased somewhat in virulence since 1905, and this result may be attributed to improved drainage. Mosquito brigades were employed in certain areas in applying kerosine-oil to tanks and other stagnant water and in removing jungle vegetation, but their labours were not rewarded by any marked decrease of malaria. A bacteriological analysis of the river water and of the filtered water-supply of Calcutta was conducted by the Health Officer (Dr. Pearse) in conjunction

with Major Clemesha, Sanitary Commissioner for Bengal, and, in the opinion of the latter, the filtered water is of excellent quality. The amalgamation of the Plague and the Health Departments was effected, and the Special Plague Department ceased to exist from 1st October 1910. The prevention of the adulteration of food engaged the attention of the Health Officer and the Corporation, and Government was requested to undertake legislation on the lines of the English Food and Drugs Act. It is doubtful, however, whether legislation on these lines will be successful, as the Act does not declare adulteration to be an offence *per se*, but only when it is not declared. More stringent measures are therefore necessary in order to protect the purchaser who is unable to protect himself.

Markets.

243 The Sir Stuart Hogg Market has been extended, and the extension has been brought into use. The total income during the year amounted to Rs. 3,57,967, as against Rs. 2,96,665 in the previous year. Much of this increase is due to the fact that the full return from the extension was not realised during the preceding year. The Lansdowne Market showed a slight increase in revenue during the year, but is still working at a loss. It is expected that with certain improvements, which are under contemplation, the Lansdowne Market may yet pay its way. The Sir Charles Allen Market in Upper Chitpore Road, which was opened during the year, did not prove remunerative at first, but since the transfer of its charge to the Vice-Chairman the prospects of the market have considerably improved. There is a proposal to construct a market in the Fringe Area on some of the land acquired for the drainage project in that locality.

**Municipal
Magistrate's
Court.**

244 The number of cases instituted in the Municipal Magistrate's Court rose slightly from 18,465 to 18,903; and though the convictions fell from 16,773 to 15,883, the amount of fines imposed increased from Rs. 68,989 to Rs. 94,352. The increase in fines is accounted for by several heavy fines in food adulteration cases, by an increase in the number of Bustee Department prosecutions and by special activity in the Hackney-carriage Department.

Contributions

245. The total contribution to hospitals and dispensaries, including remission of rates to certain institutions, amounted to Rs. 96,065, out of which the Campbell Hospital received Rs. 41,000 and the Hospital Nurses' Institution Rs. 18,333. The total expenditure on Education including exemption from rates has declined from Rs. 48,230 to Rs. 45,408.

**Hackney-
carriage
Department**

246. The Corporation have submitted proposals for revising the classification of carriages, for slightly raising the fares in view of the rise in price of fodder and of wages, and for introducing a minimum fare for short periods of 15 minutes and half an hour. These are under the consideration of Government. A trial was made of the system of attaching discs to horses and ponies in order to establish their identity, and gave very satisfactory results, but, under the law as it stands, this cannot be made compulsory, and Government have accordingly been requested by the Corporation to amend the Act.

The Puri Lodging-house Act.

[Report on the working of the Puri Lodging-house Act during the year 1910-11.]

**Extent of appli-
cation.**

247. During the year under review a single consolidating notification was issued in supersession of all previous orders (which had been found to be defective) extending the Act to all places in the districts of Puri, Balasore and Cuttack, lying within a quarter of a mile of the Orissa Trunk Road, as well as to certain specified areas in the same three districts. Otherwise, the Act was in force in the same towns and places as in the preceding year.

**Number of
licensed
lodging-houses**

248. The number of licensed lodging-houses fell from 2,657 in 1909-10 to 2,102, although the number of persons for whom accommodation was provided rose (on paper) from 79,543 to 80,674. In Nadia and Deoghar, however, the increase in the number of houses licensed and in the number of persons for whom accommodation was provided was nominal only, being due to the fact that licenses were twice issued during the past year, i.e., in April, under the old practice of working according to the financial year, and again in January when the calendar year was substituted. The small

influx of pilgrims during the *Lol* and Car festivals, and the occurrence of a serious fire at Bhubaneswar, were responsible for the marked decrease of 847 in the number of licensed lodging-houses, and of 11,943 in the number of lodgers, respectively, in the town of Puri and in the *chatties* in that district. In Gaya, accommodation for 30,067 lodgers was provided, as compared with that for 26,949 persons in the year 1909-10.

249. The number of cases disposed of under the Act fell from 415 in the preceding year to 392, although the amount of fines imposed and realised rose from Rs. 5,950 to Rs. 6,790. Offences under the Act

250. The total income of the lodging house funds during the year (excluding the opening balance of Rs. 67,091) was Rs. 81,503, in comparison with Rs. 83,965 in 1909-10. The most noticeable decrease occurred in Puri, where the income fell from Rs. 43,806 to Rs. 30,974, owing to the smaller number of licenses issued and to the diminished receipts from the rent of roadside lands which are settled yearly by auction. Jajpur, Naihati and Balasore also showed a small decline. In Jajpur this was chiefly due to the decrease in the number of licensed houses and lodgers, in Balasore to the failure to collect the entire rent during the year, and in Naihati to the abnormally large collection of fees in 1909-10, owing to a double issue of licenses. The marked increase (Rs. 7,487) in Gaya was attributable to the provision of increased accommodation, while the issue of new licenses under the amended Act accounts for the increase of income in Nadia and Deoghar, the small increase in Cuttack was due to the collection of arrears of rent outstanding at the close of the previous year. Income

251. The total expenditure incurred during the year amounted to Rs. 49,399 only, against Rs. 93,287 in the previous year. The decrease was largest in Puri (Rs. 24,196), but it was also noticeable in Gaya (Rs. 15,185), Cuttack (Rs. 2,718) and Naihati (Rs. 1,203). In Puri, Gaya and Naihati expenditure rose abnormally in 1909-10, owing to the contributions made to the Municipal schemes of water-supply. In Cuttack also a special grant of Rs. 2,501 was made in the previous year to the Jajpur Dispensary. The year closed with a total balance of Rs. 99,195 as compared with Rs. 67,091 at the end of the preceding year. Expenditure

252. The year, on the whole, was healthy, although the mortality from all causes rose from 259, in 1909-10, to 322. In Nadia, owing to the large influx of pilgrims, cholera broke out in an epidemic form during the *Rashjatra* festival, and caused 127 deaths. In Gaya, the number of deaths from cholera was 78, as against 34 in the previous year, while in Puri it was 31 as compared with 76. There was one death from plague at Deoghar. The sanitary arrangements in force were generally satisfactory, and the most important schemes of improvement under discussion were the projects of water-supply and drainage in Puri. Health and Sanitation

District Boards.

[Reports from the Commissioners of Divisions on the working of District Boards in Bengal during the year 1910-11 Statistics of British India, Part VIII—Local Funds]

253. There was no change in the number of District and Local Boards in existence during the year, but as the result of the orders directing an examination of existing Unions with a view to eliminate the failures and constitute further committees, new Unions were formed at Nawada and at Jahanabad in the district of Gaya, and at Kasba in the district of Purnea, with effect from the 1st April 1911, while four Unions in Balasore were abolished and that at Bhadrak was reconstituted Number of District and Local Boards and of Union Committees

254. District Boards held 452 meetings in all during the year, as compared with 397 in the preceding year, of which 24 were adjourned or proved abortive for want of a quorum, as against 12 in 1909-10. All the District Boards, with the exception of that at Sambalpur, met at least once a month. The average percentage of attendance of official members throughout the province was 65, and of non-officials 53, but in the district of Patna the officials, and in those of Murshidabad, Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Sambalpur and Manbhum the non-officials, were noticeably irregular in their presence at Meetings of District Boards.

meetings, and attempts will have to be made to effect an improvement. Steps were taken to increase the non-official representation in the District Boards in the Tirhut division, by raising the membership of the Champaran, Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga District Boards by 4, 7 and 1, respectively, the additional vacancies thus created being given to non-official Indians.

**Number of
Local Boards
and attendance
of members**

255 During the year 856 meetings were held by Local Boards, of which 56 failed for want of a quorum, while 33 Local Boards failed to meet at least once a month. No explanation has been given of the reason of the omission of the Northern and Southern Zamindari Local Boards in Sambalpur to hold more than two and three meetings respectively. The Dhanbaid Local Board in Manbhum met only twice during the year, but the Commissioner of the Chota Nagpur division has issued instructions to remedy this defect in future. The Local Boards of Meherpur and Bargarh held only four and three meetings, respectively, and the respective Commissioners have been requested to enforce a keener attention to business in these instances. There are other cases noticeable of irregularity in this respect, particularly in the Presidency division, and the whole subject of the relations between the District and their subordinate Local Boards has been occupying the attention of Government in connection with the report of the Royal Commission on Decentralization. Orders will shortly issue which will, it is hoped, enhance the status of the latter bodies, and, by giving them more responsible functions to perform, will ensure a greater degree of public spirit on the part of their members. As in the case of District Boards, the percentage of official attendance (59) was perceptibly better than that of non-officials (49), but at Burdwan, Satkhira, Arrah, Cuttack and Balasore the officials absented themselves in too large a proportion, and the same may be said of the non-officials at Suri, Midnapore, Aurangabad, Arisah, Sitamarhi, Puri, Bargarh, the Northern and Southern Zamindaries (Sambalpur) and Dhanbaid. The membership of the Siwan, Gopalganj, Hajipur, Sitamarhi and Samastipur Local Boards was raised to 10 in each case, and the extra places so created were filled by non-official Indians, except in Gopalganj, where no such suitable candidates were available.

Elections

256. General elections were held only in the districts of Hooghly, the 24 Parganas and Khulna. The elections failed in the Hooghly thana as no candidate was nominated in time, and in two thanas of the Arambagh subdivision for lack of voters. In Khulna the elections failed in six thanas for want of the requisite number of voters and eligible candidates. The question of extending the elective system to Local Boards in the districts of Bihar was under consideration, but the failure of voters to realise their responsibilities in places where the system is in force, and which are presumably more advanced, is not encouraging.

**Union
Committees.**

257. The number (52) of union committees nominally remained unchanged; but since eight unions possessed no income, they practically ceased to exist. The aggregate income of these bodies (excluding the opening balance) amounted to Rs. 21,436 in comparison with Rs. 20,732 in 1909-10, while the expenditure rose from Rs. 18,683 to Rs. 20,217. The contributions from District Boards (Rs. 18,166) practically constituted the sole source of income of these bodies, and if they are ever to be of any value at all, it is essential that these grants should be increased, the committees being encouraged, in recognition of this concession, to utilize their powers of taxation, although this need not be made an absolute condition. If Rs. 1,000 be considered as a reasonable income, for the expenditure of which it is worth while constituting a special authority, only two unions satisfied that qualification, while only 17 others possessed incomes in excess of Rs. 500. It is hoped that the latter sum will be regarded as a minimum by all District Boards, and that the existing grants may be enhanced (where necessary) at least to that amount. It is not admitted that the resources of District Boards will not permit of such action, the largest number of unions in one district (Khulna) is eight only, and there the condition is complied with, Burdwan, which stands second on the list, distributed Rs. 800 only to four unions, and so on in other cases. The income derived from each union from Road Cess should be ascertained, and the existing grant compared with it. It is absolutely useless to urge the extension of the system of village committees, unless resources are placed at their disposal.

sufficient to permit of their executing some works of utility, and at first they must necessarily rely mainly upon the District Boards. At present the working of unions is condemned from year to year, whereas, as a matter of fact, they have had little or no work to perform, and the experiment is of such importance, if village government in Bengal is ever to become a reality, that it should no longer continue to be handicapped by the financial difficulties which have so far impeded it.

258. The year opened with a gross credit balance of Rs. 23,99,699, and the total receipts of District Boards from all sources amounted to Rs 78,09,239. The total amount available for expenditure was thus Rs. 1,02,08,938, of which Rs. 76,58,355 was spent during the year, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 25,50,583. The income and expenditure under the main heads of account during the past two years are compared below:—

		1909-10		1910-11	
		Rs.	Percentage of total income	Rs.	Percentage of total income.
Land Revenue	...	376	005	327	004
Provincial Rates	...	86,08,792	48 1	37,84,032	48 4
Interest	...	32,196	4	31,268	4
Law and Justice	...	16,319	2	12,808	16
Police (Pounds)	...	3,35,491	4 5	3,26,712	4 2
Education	...	5,62,967	7 5	5,94,107	7 6
Medical	...	1,20,448	1 6	1,19,064	1 5
Scientific and other Minor Departments	...	29,654	4	32,205	4
Miscellaneous	...	1,55,598	2 1	1,66,470	2 1
Railways	...	45,254	06	53,946	69
Irrigation—Minor Works and Navigation	...	4,916	6	4,570	06
Civil Works (including Ferries)	...	13,34,041	17 8	15,32,421	19 6
Loans	...	2,75,000	3 6	3,51,152	4 5
Deposits and Advances	...	9,71,669	12 98	8,00,157	10 2
Total	...	74,93,721		78,09,239	

EXPENDITURE.

		1909 10		1910 11.	
		Rs.	Percentage of total expenditure	Rs.	Percentage of total expenditure.
Administration	...	2,13,535	2 9	2,15,044	2 8
Police	...	27,589	3	23,831	3
Ports and Pilotage	8,325	1
Education	...	11,99,503	16 3	12,01,885	15 7
Medical	...	4,17,846	5 7	4,32,207	5 7
Scientific and other Minor Departments	...	81,836	1 1	88,560	1 15
Superannuation Allowances and Pensions	...	51,518	7	57,330	7
Stationery and Printing	...	37,803	5	40,625	5
Miscellaneous	...	26,850	3	34,434	45
Famine Relief	...	87,830	1 2	47,055	6
Minor Works and Navigation	...	2,73,477	3 7	1,66,215	2 1
Civil Works—Public Works	...	41,56,410	57 1	44,79,659	58 5
Contribution	...	10,399	14
Interest on Debt	...	11,686	16	11,485	1
Repayment of Loans	...	45,096	6	50,841	66
Deposits and Advances	...	6,48,912	8 9	8,00,859	10 4
Total	...	72,80,290		76,58,355	

INCOME

Provincial
Rates.

259. The income realized under this head showed an increase of Rs. 1,74,240 in comparison with the previous year, which, in its turn, had exhibited an enhancement of income by Rs. 1,21,378. This result was common to all divisions. The largest increase (Rs. 64,888) occurred in the Tirhut division. The improvement is generally ascribed to the collection of arrears, and, in a few instances, to the revision of assessments. In Ranchi the Maharaja of Chota Nagpur was a heavy defaulter, and greater punctuality in payment should have been insisted upon in his case.

Police (Pounds).

260. The total number of pounds maintained increased from 2,857 to 2,900, while the income under this head fell in fourteen districts and rose in the remainder, resulting in a net decrease of Rs. 10,013. The largest falling off (Rs. 3,508) occurred in Nadia, and is attributed to lack of competition. In Muzaffarpur four pounds, of which no settlement was effected during the last three years, were closed. The system of triennial settlement will be tried in the current year in Birbhum, Bankura and Jessore. In the Bhagalpur division the opinion is expressed that better results are secured by annual sales, but there is little to show that this opinion is well founded, while, on the other hand, there is the success achieved in the Tirhut division by the adoption of a longer term. The Commissioner of Chota Nagpur draws attention to the unsatisfactory character of the men with whom settlements are now not infrequently effected, and everything which will attract a more substantial class of lessee, with a more permanent interest in their pounds, is advantageous.

Receipts from
Ferries and
Bridges

261. The receipts from ferries rose in 20 districts and fell in 8, resulting in a net increase of Rs. 24,861. The largest enhancement (Rs. 9,086), which was secured in Darbhanga, was due to the introduction of settlements for three years accompanied by the deposit of three months' rent in advance. In fact the system of settling ferries for a longer term than one year appears to be much more generally in force than in respect of pounds, and in the 24 Parganas *ghâts* are settled for five years at a time.

There are now five bridges in the province on which toll bars have been established—one in the Presidency division and four in Tirhut—and the system appears to be working smoothly.

Loans.

262. The District Board of the 24 Parganas received Rs. 1,71,152 as the last instalment of the loan for the Magra Hât Drainage Scheme plus a further sum of Rs. 75,000, which had previously been surrendered. The Jessore District Board took a loan of Rs. 15,000 for the construction of bridges, and that of Darbhanga borrowed Rs. 90,000 for the repair of roads and bridges which had been extensively damaged by the floods of August 1910.

EXPENDITURE

Administra-
tion

263. The aggregate expenditure under the head of "Administration" increased by Rs. 1,509. The cost of "Office establishments" showed a decrease of Rs. 5,662, whereas that under "Contingencies" rose by Rs. 7,168. It is to be hoped that the latter result was due to temporary causes only.

Education

264. The total expenditure under this head exceeded that of the previous year by Rs. 2,382, the increase being shared by all divisions except Bhagalpur and Orissa. In the former the decrease was due to the transfer of the technical school from the charge of the Bhagalpur District Board to that of the Education Department, in the latter to various minor fluctuations. The maintenance and management of middle and primary schools were responsible for the expenditure of Rs. 85,436 and of Rs. 1,87,364, as compared with Rs. 90,409 and Rs. 1,95,911, respectively, in the preceding year. The number of middle schools maintained by District Boards fell from 137 in the previous year to 134 during 1910-11, while the number of primary schools (102) remained stationary. Expenditure under the head "Grants-in-aid" exhibited an increase of Rs. 33,731 over that of 1909-10, which was accounted for by an increase in attendance of 23,173 boys and 3,269 girls. A complaint is made in Gaya of too frequent transfers among the inspecting staff, while the Commissioner of Orissa comments upon the tendency to convert middle

vernacular into middle English schools without adequate provision for establishment, etc.

265. The number of special schools directly managed by District Boards Special schools. was seven, in comparison with six in the preceding year, the management of the technical school at Midnapore having been taken over by the District Board. The total number of aided industrial schools (16) was two less than in the previous year. There was a noticeable increase of 243 in the number of "Other schools" aided by the Boards, but the explanation of this fluctuation cannot be gathered from the reports. The peripatetic weaving staff maintained by the Darbhanga District Board failed to arouse any interest among the people, in spite of an extended trial, and was reduced to one weaver stationed at Darbhanga, apparently the experiment might as well be discontinued entirely.

266. The total expenditure under this head exhibited an increase of Medical. Rs. 14,361 over that of the previous year, which was shared by all divisions, except Bhagalpur and Patna. In the former the decrease was slight, being caused by smaller plague expenditure in Monghyr. In the Patna division the District Board of Shahabad was responsible for a decline of Rs. 7,739, which was chiefly due to reduced expenditure upon surgical instruments (since the Arrah dispensary was fully equipped in the preceding year), and also to the discontinuance of the District Board's contribution towards the maintenance of the lady doctor at Dumraon, the local Raj undertaking to defray the whole cost. In Patna and Gaya less expenditure was incurred in connection with plague operations. The total number of dispensaries maintained by District Boards (168) remained unchanged, subject to minor fluctuations in individual districts, but there was an increase of three in the number (141) of those in receipt of grants-in-aid. There is still room for considerable expansion in this direction before it can be said that the wants of districts have been fully met. A floating dispensary started by the Khulna District Board in conjunction with the Forest Department in the Sundarbans was not a success. The scheme of deputing medical officers to local markets for the distribution of medical aid was continued in Hooghly, Midnapore, Patna, Bhagalpur, Purnea and Palamau, and attention is once again directed to the desirability of extending this system. The expense involved is not great, and medical facilities are thus placed within reach of people to whom they are otherwise likely to be inaccessible. The District Boards of Gaya, Saran, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur and Balasore distributed medicine through itinerant doctors during cholera epidemics. The Murshidabad District Board, which at present only aids various dispensaries, is considering the question of maintaining institutions of its own. The information supplied regarding the distribution of quinine is still, with one or two exceptions, exceedingly fragmentary, and it is impossible to compare the results throughout the province. Clear statements have been called for, giving the comparative consumption during the year under review and that preceding it, together with similar information as to the number of vendors employed, classified under different heads, e.g., post-offices, police, school masters, etc. So far as they go, the figures show no marked increase in the demand for the drug, and in fact rather the reverse, and in the Orissa and Chota Nagpur divisions it is stated that the people have an aversion to it. In Nadia the popular demand was for pice-packets in preference to tabloids, which is contrary to the experience elsewhere. The Local Government has recently had occasion to examine the statistics of the vendors employed, and it is disappointing to find that greater progress has not been made, while the discrepancies between different districts raise the presumption that the subject has received far more attention in some places than in others. Orders on the point will shortly issue, but detailed instructions have already been given and it only remains to give effect to them. The establishment of district depôts was intended to encourage local interest in the matter, but so far apparently this result has not been achieved.

267. The total outlay on sanitary improvements during 1910-11 increased Sanitation. by Rs. 3,580, as compared with that of the previous year. As in the previous year, the largest expenditure was incurred by the District Boards of Gaya (Rs. 7,855) and Patna (Rs. 5,759). The District Board of Midnapore spent Rs. 3,675, but the District Boards of Bankura, Murshidabad, Balasore and Sambalpur spent nothing on this account. The results are not satisfactory, and

the subject can never be adequately dealt with until the resources of District Boards are increased and a proper organisation is built up, which will interest itself in the care of particular villages." The fulfilment of the former requirement may be a matter of years; the second would be ensured if village unions could be galvanised into activity, and it is largely for this reason that great importance is attached to their trial, with reasonable resources, on the very moderate scale upon which they have as yet been attempted. In the Barasat subdivision (24-Parganas) it is stated that in some villages voluntary committees have been formed to deal with village sanitation, and the District Board might usefully encourage them by the grant of funds.

Veterinary charges.

268. The total outlay on account of veterinary charges rose by Rs. 6,269 in comparison with the preceding year, the increase being shared by all divisions. Since the close of the year the veterinary assistants serving under almost all the District Boards have been formed into one Provincial Service; in other words, the assistants are now Government officers who are lent to District Boards on payment of five-sixths of the cost in the case of stationary assistants, and one-half in the case of itinerant officers. This improvement in the prospects of the men should encourage recruitment, and a large field still awaits the operations of the department, although there is ample evidence of good work being already done.

Famine relief.

269. It is satisfactory that practically no relief operations were necessitated during the year under review. The expenditure of Rs. 46,883, shown against Darbhanga, represents the book transfer of the balance of the famine expenditure of 1908-09, which was pending as an advance, while Rs. 668 were expended in Champaran in the shape of charitable relief to the sufferers by the floods.

Civil Works.

270. Contrary to the experience of the two previous years, the total outlay of the year on civil works showed an increase of Rs. 3,12,850; in comparison with that of the preceding year, although it is still less than that of 1907-08 by Rs. 89,617. As compared with 1909-10, there was an increase of 33 miles of metalled roads, 271 miles of unmetalled roads and 385 miles of village roads maintained by District Boards. The work done proceeded upon the customary lines, and presents no features of special interest.

Water-supply and water-works.

271. In continuation of a net decrease of Rs. 6,647 during 1909-10, there was further fall of Rs. 21,367 in the expenditure on original works relating to water-supply; and, allowing for the trifling rise of Rs. 486 in connection with repairs, there was a net reduction of Rs. 20,881. This was especially noticeable in Nadia, Khulna, Muzaffarpur and Monghyr, where the District Boards, in comparison with the previous year, spent Rs. 6,940, Rs. 9,982, Rs. 820 and Rs. 2,670, respectively, on original works, as against Rs. 14,111, Rs. 19,983, Rs. 25,766 and Rs. 20,371 in the previous year. In contrast to these disappointing results, it is satisfactory to notice that a sum of Rs. 72,200 was subscribed in the district of Nadia for the creation of a fund for the improvement of the local water-supply in memory of the late King-Emperor, Edward VII. Only in eleven districts (namely, Burdwan, Birbhum, Midnapore, Hooghly, Nadia, Khulna, Patna, Shahabad, Bhagalpur, Purnea and Cuttack) did the expenditure exceed the sum of Rs. 5,000, which has been held by Government to be a reasonable minimum standard. Since the close of the year it has been decided that Government will contribute annually from the budget allotment for the improvement of sanitation one-third of the expenditure incurred by District Boards in any year upon the improvement of the local water-supply, up to a maximum in each case of Rs. 3,000. The grant will be made in the succeeding year on receipt of the information contained in the annual report on the working of District Boards regarding the money spent upon this object, and it is essential therefore that cases of failure to deal adequately with the subject should be more clearly explained than is now the case. It is hoped that this definite evidence of the interest taken by the Local Government in the matter will arouse District Boards to a sense of their responsibilities.

Drainage

272. The total outlay in connection with drainage works during the previous year was Rs. 5,205 only, but of the expenditure during 1910-11 (Rs. 32,483), Rs. 25,000 represents the contribution of the Shahabad District Board towards the cost of the Arrah Drainage Scheme. Of the balance the

Khulna District Board spent Rs. 3,367 on the completion of the drains along the side of the Jessore road, in the Sadar Municipality. The Magra Hat Drainage Scheme in the 24-Parganas was practically completed at a cost of Rs. 21,20,966, and the whole area drained was cultivated during the year without damage to the crops. The project for the improvement of the basin of the Nawi and Sunthi rivers in the 24-Parganas was finally sanctioned by Government at the close of the year, and it is hoped that work will actually commence during 1911-12. The District Board of Jessore resolved to abandon the project for the improvement of the river Bhairab, while proceeding with that dealing with the Arool bhal. A proposal is at present before the Government of India for the creation of a Special Engineering Division to which would be entrusted the examination of the conditions prevailing in tracts which are alleged to be waterlogged and the elaboration of proposals for their improvement. It is only by the systematic working of an expert agency that the factors governing these problems will be thoroughly ascertained and the means of solving them discovered.

273. The expenditure on arboriculture showed an increase of Rs 1,701 over that of the preceding year, and all District Boards, with the exception of Hazaribagh, paid some attention to the matter. The District Boards in the Patna division continue to take the lead in this respect, Gaya heading the list with an outlay of Rs 7,790. Howrah spent Rs 197 only in maintaining existing trees, and might well show greater activity. The Commissioner has been requested to ascertain whether the Board is proceeding in accordance with any working plan, and, if not, to call for the formulation of a definite scheme of work. Arboriculture.

274. There are now four guaranteed lines working in the Province from which the share of the surplus profits enjoyed by the different District Boards Railways and Tramways. concerned was as follows :—

Line	1909 Rs	1910. Rs.
Howrah (Howrah-Amra line) .	40,935	45,732
Hooghly (Howrah-Sheakhala line) ...	3,505	5,032
24-Parganas (Baraset-Basirhat line) .	6,478	674
Patna (Bakhtiarpur-Bihar line) ...	5,198	3,421

The most noticeable falling off was in the share of the 24-Parganas District Board of the profits from the Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway, but the Pattipukur extension has since been completed and an improvement is anticipated. The scheme for the proposed light railway from Krishnagar to Jellinghee in Nadia is awaiting the orders of the Government of India, while the construction of a light railway from Jessore to Jhenidah, with a branch from Kaliganj to Kotechandpur, was sanctioned during the year and the work has been taken up since its close. The question of constructing a light railway between Khulna and Bagerhat, which was dropped some years ago, was re-opened, and the matter is pending the result of the survey that is being made. The Patna District Board agreed to a 5-mile extension of the Bakhtiarpur Light Railway from Silao to Rajgu, and also to the construction of a new line from Futwa to Islampur (26 miles). In Shahabad the construction of the Arrah-Sasaram Light Railway was completed and the line was opened for traffic, as also was the Derr-i-Rohas Light Railway. The construction of the Samastipur-Rosera line was commenced by the Bengal and North-Western Railway Company, while the question of a light railway from Monghyr to Gangta via Kharagpur is still under the consideration of the District Board.

275. The aggregate closing balances of the different District Boards (excluding deposits) amounted to Rs. 22,23,364, as against Rs. 20,39,069 in the preceding year. Palamau is the only district in which the closing balance (Rs 1,056) fell short of the minimum balance of Rs. 5,000, but the working margin retained by the Nadia District Board, which last year was Rs. 39 only, has been increased to a more suitable sum. The largest closing balance was that of the District Board of the 24-Parganas (Rs. 4,06,839), but this included Rs. 3,30,790, being the unspent balance of the loan for the Closing balance

Magra Hât Drainage Scheme and the contribution received from Government towards the Nawi-Sunthi drainage project. In Burdwan the large closing balance (Rs. 3,00,723) was attributed to unexpected receipts from the cess on mines and to the non-completion of certain works. The District Boards of Midnapore, Manbhum, Muzaaffarpur and Darbhanga all showed balances of over one lakh, and since one of the principal reasons adduced is the failure to spend the budget allotment for civil works, their administration is open to criticism.

General
remarks.

276. There are few new features in the administration of the year. In the Presidency division, the Commissioner notices complaints of delay and inefficiency, but observes that while the District Fund is not always spent to the best advantage, the work of the Boards goes on smoothly. In Patna the appreciable extension of the system of light railways was a feature of the year. In Tirhut damage caused by floods very seriously affected the financial condition of the District Boards of Darbhanga and Champaran, and the Commissioner brings specially to notice the valuable assistance rendered to the Boards by the Planting community. The Commissioner of Bhagalpur comments on the lack of attention shown towards questions of water-supply and sanitation in rural areas. The Bengal Local Self-Government Act (Act III of 1885) came into force in 1886-87, but the statistics, in approximately their present form, have been compiled from 1889-90 only. In making a brief retrospect of the progress achieved, it is most convenient, therefore, to refer to the latter year. The units of administration—District Boards in most districts and Local Boards in most subdivisions—have remained unchanged; but in 1896-97 48 union committees were started, in comparison with 52 in existence during the year under review. The receipts from Road Cess still constitute the mainstay of the income of District Boards, and amounted to Rs. 37,84,032 during 1910-11, in comparison with Rs. 23,92,355 in 1889-90. The only other appreciable sources of revenue are Pounds and Ferries. The former now yield Rs. 3,26,712 and the latter Rs. 3,66,093, as against Rs. 2,35,614 and Rs. 1,52,722, respectively, in the earlier year. The possibilities of enhancing the income under these heads are obviously limited, but since 1905-06 the resources of District Boards have been materially augmented by the very substantial annual contribution from Provincial Revenues, equivalent to one-fourth of the net proceeds from Road Cess. The growth of expenditure under the main heads is shown by the following figures:—

	1889-90	1910-11	Percentage of growth
	Rs.	Rs.	
Administration ..	1,77,673	2,15,044	21.6
Education ..	6,39,588	12,01,885	87.9
Medical ..	32,265	4,32,207	1,239.5
Veterinary ...	Nil	66,977	
Buildings ..	28,188	1,58,703	463.0
Communications ..	21,29,668	33,48,291	57.2
Water-supply ..	6,596	1,46,328	21,18.4
Arboriculture ...	Nil	54,046	

Veterinary work and arboriculture figure as entirely new objects to which the funds of District Boards are now devoted. Otherwise there is markedly greater attention now paid to Medical and Water-supply, though under neither head can it yet be said that all requirements have been met. The bulk of the outlay of District Boards is incurred on Communications. In the mileage of metalled roads there has not been a great expansion—2,978 miles in 1910-11 as compared with 2,468 in 1889-90, unmetalled roads do not seem to have been classified throughout upon the same basis, the mileage is given as 19,340 in 1889-90, as compared with 18,879 plus 14,920 miles of village roads in the year immediately under review. The crying want of all District Boards is an enhanced revenue, and the development of Local Boards and village unions must continue to be hampered until that can be secured. Within the limits of its present resources the administration continues to progress steadily and without friction.

Volunteering.

277. The total number of enrolled volunteers and reservists during the year 1910-11 was 7,308, of whom 7,087 qualified as efficient. Sanction was granted to the formation of two new troops in the Chota Nagpur Light Horse, of a new company of the 2nd Battalion Calcutta Volunteer Rifles (to consist half of adults and half of cadets and to be designated the "Scouts" Company) and of one new company of the 2nd Battalion Calcutta Volunteer Rifles (to be designated No. II Cyclist Company). Total strength.

Marine.

[The information contained in this Chapter has been obtained from reports which are annually submitted to this Government. The reports consulted are as follow —

- (1) Annual Report of the Port Officer, Calcutta, for 1910-11
 - (2) Annual Report of the working of the Shipping offices at Calcutta and the Orissa ports for 1910-11
 - (3) Annual Report of the Health Officer of the Port of Calcutta for 1910
 - (4) Administration Report of the Agent for Government Consignments for 1910-11
 - (5) Administration Report of the Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta for 1910-11.
 - (6) Administration Report of the Howrah Bridge for 1910-11
 - (7) Administration Report of the Orissa ports for 1910-11.
 - (8) Annual Report of the Bengal Smoke-nuisances Commission for 1910-11.
 - (9) Annual Report of the Bengal Steam-boiler Commission for 1910-11.
- Statistics of British India, Part VIII—Local Funds]

THE PORT OF CALCUTTA

278. There were fifty-eight pilots and sixteen leadsmen apprentices in the Pilot Service at the close of the year as against fifty-eight pilots and thirteen leadsmen in the previous year. There were no casualties nor retirements in the service during the year. Three leadsmen apprentices were recruited from England. Pilot Service.

279. The pilotage receipts amounted to Rs. 14,37,370 as against Rs. 13,67,388 in 1909-10. Receipts from pilotage

280. The number of vessels visiting the port, which had fallen off during 1909-10, increased during the year under review. One thousand six hundred and seventy vessels with a gross tonnage of 6,375,298 entered and 1,666 vessels with a gross tonnage of 6,388,041 left the port. The corresponding figures of the preceding year were one thousand six hundred and ten with a gross tonnage of 6,148,549 and one thousand six hundred and fifteen with a gross tonnage of 6,151,667. The average tonnage of vessels entering and leaving the port was 3,825 as against 3,814 in 1909-10. Arrival and departure of vessels.

281. During the year there were three collisions and twenty-six groundings as against one and fifteen, respectively, of the previous year. Three groundings and one collision were due to the negligence of the pilots concerned. Casualties to sea-going vessels.

Sixty-six preliminary enquiries were held by the Port Officer in connection with cases of casualties to sea-going as well as inland vessels; of these, one was referred to a Departmental Court and fifteen to Special Courts of Enquiry. A Departmental Court of Enquiry was held, at the instance of the Government, to enquire into the conduct of a pilot. As a result of the enquiry, the pilot was cautioned. No court under Act XII of 1859 (an Act for the trial of pilots) was held during the year.

282. Eighty-five candidates appeared before the Marine Examination Board for the grant of Colonial and Home Trade Certificates of Competency as Mates, Engineers, etc., of whom forty passed. Five hundred and eighty-five candidates went up for the examinations for the grant of certificates of competency as Master, Serang, Engineer and Engine-driver of inland steam-vessels, of whom two hundred passed; one candidate was granted a license as a pilot of vessels plying between Calcutta and Chandbally. Examinations.

Tonnage
allotted to
Pilots

283. Owing to a decrease in the earnings of officers in the lower grades of the Pilot Service, a revised scale of distribution of tonnage to be allotted to the different grades of pilots was provisionally sanctioned from the 1st April 1909. This had the desired effect of causing an appreciable increase in the earnings of the Master Pilots, but the question of finally sanctioning this scale was deferred till a further experience of its working had been obtained.

Change of
staff

284. Commander St. L. S. Warden, R.I.M., held the post of Port Officer up to the 9th November 1910, when he reverted to the Royal Indian Marine, on being relieved by Commander C. J. C. Kendall, R.S.O., R.I.M.

THE SHIPPING OFFICES AT CALCUTTA AND KIDDERPORE

Finance

285. The receipts of the Shipping office, Calcutta, during the year 1910-11 amounted to Rs. 95,802 as against Rs. 88,759 in the previous year. The increase is due to the sale of discharge and cookery certificates, the latter having been introduced during the year, and to larger receipts on account of fees for shipping, discharging and overtime. The expenditure of the year was Rs. 57,463 as against with Rs. 51,932 in the previous year. This increase is chiefly due to increased leave and house allowances of officers, overtime charges and cost of forms and stationery. The last item is explained by the fact that the cost of a large number of forms of the previous year was included in the accounts of the year under review.

Seamen
shipped and
discharged

286. The statement below shows the numbers of seamen shipped and discharged under European and Indian Articles at the Shipping offices, Calcutta and Kidderpore, during the year compared with the numbers shipped and discharged during 1909-10 :—

		<i>Shipped</i>		
		1909-10.	1910-11	Increase
European articles	...	653	948	295
Indian	„	40,658	42,887	2,229
		<i>Discharged.</i>		
European articles	...	636	922	286
Indian	„	35,919	38,461	2,542

The large increases in the number of seamen shipped and discharged under both European and Indian Articles were owing to a greater demand for seamen generally. The numbers of seamen shipped and discharged during the year by foreign Consuls were 123 and 138, respectively, as against 84 and 90 in the year before.

Repatriation
of seamen.

287. During the year, 132 seamen were repatriated under the Distressed Seamen's Regulations, as against 84 in the previous year.

HEALTH OF THE PORT OF CALCUTTA

Inspection of
vessels

288. The Health Officer of the port inspected 969 inward-bound vessels and 793 outward-bound during 1910 as against 964 and 723 in 1909. The increase was due to a larger number of vessels entering and leaving the port during the year compared with that of the previous year. The following table shows the numbers of crew and passengers of vessels who were passed after inspection or rejected during the year :—

		Number passed.	Number rejected.
Outward-bound vessels	Crew	57,319	31
	Passengers	23,045	149
Inward-bound vessels	Crew	57,319	Nil
	Passengers	2,307	Nil

Health of the
Port

289. Six hundred and eighty-four European seamen were treated in hospitals for different diseases as against five hundred and twelve during the previous year. The number of deaths (nine) was the same as in the preceding year. The number of venereal cases was 82 as against 54 in 1909.

The health of the Indian floating population compared favourably with that of the previous year. The total number of deaths during the year was 138 or 4.63, as against 194 or 6.48 per mille in 1909. The number of deaths at sea amongst European seamen was eight, as against five in the preceding year. None of these was, however, associated with epidemic disease.

290. There were seven cases of small-pox and one of suspected small-pox on seven different steam-vessels in the port. Disinfection of vessels.

There were cases of measles on three steamers and six cases of cholera on six different steamers. In all cases the vessels were thoroughly disinfected. The steamship *Umfuh*, which arrived with five cases of measles, five cases of mumps and two cases of chicken-pox, was placed in quarantine until the emigrants had been removed and the vessel thoroughly fumigated.

AGENT FOR GOVERNMENT CONSIGNMENTS

291. The total recoveries of the agency amounted to Rs. 2,08,424, while the expenditure was Rs. 1,88,353. Finance.

292. The tonnage dealt with by the agency was—

Tonnage handled.

Packages	...	674,923 (including 318,544 fire-bricks).
Tons		27,551

The value of freight bills passed was Rs. 3,11,141.

A revised scale of rates for the handling of stores sanctioned by the Government of India was enforced with effect from the 1st April 1910. The Agent has been asked to submit a report on the result of the revised scale after the revised rates have been in operation for one year.

CALCUTTA PORT TRUST

293. The revenue of the Trust amounted to Rs. 1,28,26,171 as against Rs. 1,18,36,518 in 1909-10, showing an increase of Rs. 9,89,653. Revenue receipts and expenditure.

The expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,28,23,770 as against Rs. 1,19,97,364 in 1909-10. The increase was mainly due to additional interest and sinking fund charges on capital raised, including the first instalment of Rs. 2 lakhs towards the repayment of the Kidderpore Dock loan. It was also partly due to higher labour charges owing to a greater tonnage being handled and to an increase of establishment due to its normal growth and the provision of staff for new warehouses and vessels. The Revenue Reserve Fund stood at Rs. 30,36,628 at the close of the year.

294. The expenditure on capital works was Rs. 40,82,242.

Capital outlay.

The following are the most important works in progress or completed during the year:—

Construction of the "heavy lift" yard at the north end of the jetties equipped with 30-ton travelling cantilever crane for the handling of heavy machinery, girders, etc.

The re-arrangement and extension of the running lines and sidings on the eastern side of the Docks and also at Kantapukur to provide better facilities for the receipt, marshalling and despatch of wagons.

Scheme of improvements on the north of the Howrah Bridge.

The construction of a large landing stage at Outram Ghât for the embarkation and disembarkation of passengers by ocean-going steamers.

The carrying out of the scheme for the remodelling and extension of the Budge-Budge Petroleum Depot.

Construction of landing stages at the ferry service stations of both sides of the river.

Extension of Dock No. 2.

Construction of a new depot for the Army Remount Department; reclamation of low-lying lands for the Dock Improvement Scheme.

PROTECTION.

Capital
account.

295. The liabilities on capital account of the Trust at the close of the year after allowing for the amount (Rs. 1,09,34,289) at credit of the sinking funds were Rs. 8,43,36,876. Against these liabilities the assets of the Trust were valued at Rs. 10,67,92,448. This amount does not fully represent the exact value of the property because a large area of land has been valued at its cost price, whereas it has considerably increased in value since its acquisition.

Financial
results

296. The subjoined table shows, in detail, the receipts and charges of the revenue account for the year 1910-11, compared with similar figures for the previous year.

	1910-11.				1909-10				DIFFERENCE BETWEEN 1910- 11 AND 1909-10	
	Income.	Expendi- ture	Net revenue.	Net deficit.	Income	Expendi- ture	Net revenue	Net deficit.	In- crease	De- crease.
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs	Rs.	Rs
I.—Control	11,323	8,26,697	..	8,15,374	11,072	8,38,173	..	8,21,101	..	94,273
II.—Jetties	14,01,509	7,54,927	6,46,582	..	13,78,667	7,35,111	6,48,556	..	3,026	..
III.—Twa warehouse	1,68,774	1,02,620	66,154	..	1,55,567	1,09,381	46,186	..	19,968	..
IV.—Petroleum wharf	2,27,839	40,845	1,86,994	..	2,57,930	67,350	1,90,580	9,125
V.—Inland vessels wharves	4,63,074	1,74,114	2,89,560	..	4,41,040	1,90,401	2,50,558	..	39,002	..
VI.—Rentable lands and buildings	16,97,041	2,06,596	14,90,445	..	15,19,560	1,70,139	13,49,421	..	1,41,024	..
VII.—Port	5,27,678	5,02,886	24,722	..	5,12,171	5,24,125	..	11,954	1,96,876	..
VIII.—Port approaches	7,40,255	5,58,173	1,82,082	..	7,04,402	5,86,267	1,18,135	..	63,947	..
IX.—Railway	13,72,120	10,41,291	3,31,829	..	12,94,011	10,07,648	2,86,363	..	45,486	..
X.—Wet docks	29,90,370	29,67,990	22,380	..	27,78,993	26,96,109	80,824	58,444
XI.—Dry docks	2,65,691	68,181	1,97,510	..	2,65,791	68,256	1,97,535	25
XII.—Ferry service	2,34,402	2,04,356	30,046	..	1,45,129	1,67,620	..	22,491	5,637	..
XIII.—River dues	22,45,074	21,41,533	1,03,541	..
Sale of unserviceable mate- rials	32,945	30,760	6,815
Contribution from Howrah Bridge.	19,710	20,847	1,137
Interest on Revenue Reserve	1,12,981	1,21,935	8,954
Interest on Bank balances	22,748	43,702	21,044
Amount payable by Capital to Revenue on account of haulage and maintenance of rolling stock, including establishment employed on reclamation works chargeable to Capital.	2,91,137	2,91,137	..
Interest and Sinking Fund charges	..	50,72,734	45,46,064	5,26,770
Contribution to Deprecia- tion and Fire Insurance Fund	..	1,18,760	1,18,760
Reconstruction of jetty at the sixty feet river entrance	..	44,169	1,02,455
Removal of wrecks	..	32,471	68,465	35,946	..
Total	1,28,26,171	1,28,26,170	1,18,36,518	1,19,97,364

Provident
Fund

297. During the year the Commissioners established a provident fund for the benefit of their employes. No contribution will be made to the fund from the revenues of the Trust, but the Commissioners guarantee the payment of interest at 4 per cent. on amounts subscribed by the members.

HOWRAH BRIDGE.

Receipts and
charges

298. The income realised from the bridge amounted to Rs. 2,28,250 and the expenditure to Rs. 2,18,388, giving a surplus of Rs. 9,862 as against Rs. 10,710 in the previous year. The receipts from railway traffic rose from Rs. 2,07,209 to Rs. 2,08,024.

The bridge was opened on 283 occasions, of which 67 were during the day time and 216 at night. Three thousand three hundred and twenty-five vessels passed through the bridge as against 3,155 in the previous year.

THE PORTS OF ORISSA.

299. The earnings of the ports decreased from Rs. 15,673 to Rs. 13,536, **Finance.** because the number of vessels which visited the ports during the year was less than that in the preceding year.

The expenditure was Rs. 3,421 less than that of 1909-10, and the fund closed with a credit balance of Rs. 1,760. This result occurred in consequence of the revised distribution of charges sanctioned by the Government of India in August 1910.

300. The import trade of Cuttack shows a heavy decrease, due to non- **Trade.** importation of rice and paddy from Burma, for which there was no demand on account of good harvests. On the other hand, the value of the export trade in Cuttack, Puri and Balasore greatly increased, as, owing to an excellent harvest, a large quantity of rice was available for export to foreign and other Indian ports. The total value of trade, exports and imports, rose from Rs. 92,36,756 to Rs. 98,93,045.

301. The total number of vessels visiting the ports during the year was **Arrivals of** 188, with an aggregate tonnage of 154,298, as against 226 vessels with an **vessels** aggregate tonnage of 209,716 in the preceding year.

302. The Port Officer of Cuttack and Balasore ports inspected all the **Inspections** ports several times. Heavy erosion of Shatt's Island continued towards the north-east. About 75 feet in depth was cut away during the year. Steps have been taken to protect the light-mast.

BENGAL SMOKE-NUISANCES COMMISSION

303. The Chief and Assistant Inspectors of Smoke-nuisances made 3,962 **Observations** observations of smoke-nuisances in the year. They also visited factories and **of smoke and** in over two hundred cases tested the furnaces and stoking appliances as regards **inspections.** the prevention of smoke. While there has been a steady reduction of the smoke-nuisance from factory chimneys, the nuisance caused by the smoke emitted from coke-making in open fires could not be effectively stopped owing to difficulties experienced by the Commission in dealing with offenders for want of suitable provisions under the law. The question of amending the Bengal Smoke-nuisances Act, 1905, is under the consideration of Government. There were 47 prosecutions during the year for infringement of the provisions of the Act, in all of which cases convictions were obtained.

304. The use of electricity, oil and gas as a substitute for coal to supply **Use of** power and heat for industrial and domestic purposes continued to increase **Electricity, oil,** during the year. **etc., for power.**

STEAM-BOILER COMMISSION.

305. The provisions of the Bengal Steam-boilers and Prime-movers Act, **Extension of** 1879, were extended to the district of Murshidabad with effect from 21st **the Act** February 1911.

306. The total number of boilers on the registers for the town and **Inspection of** suburbs of Calcutta and places within the extended jurisdiction of the Com- **boilers.** mission at the end of the year was 5,030. Of this number, 4,095 boilers (including 58 boilers twice presented for inspection) were inspected and certificates granted, as against 4,113 and 4,658 in the two previous years. Two hundred and ten boilers were struck off the registers owing either to their not having been presented for survey for five consecutive years or to their having been removed out of the jurisdiction of the Commission, or, in the case of twenty boilers, to their being condemned as unfit for further service. The remaining 783 were either not in use or were undergoing repairs. Two hundred and thirty-nine new boilers were inspected during the year, as against 336 in the previous year.

In consequence of a serious boiler explosion at the Gadi Silk Filature in the Murshidabad district, causing serious loss of life, the Act was extended to that district, and the extension of the Act to the whole Province is under the consideration of Government. The question of reducing the fees levied under the Steam-boilers and Prime-movers Act, 1879, was also raised, but the matter was allowed to pend until Government had ascertained the extra cost that would be involved in the proposed extension of the Act to the whole Province.

CHAPTER IV—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Agriculture.

[Report of the Department of Agriculture, Bengal, for the year ending the 30th June 1911.]

Organization.

307. In accordance with orders issued in October 1904, all correspondence between the Director of Agriculture and Government passed through the Board of Revenue. For administrative reasons a change has since been considered desirable, and in March 1911 the Agricultural Department with all its subordinate offices was transferred to the direct control of this Government.

The proposals for the organization of a permanent staff for the Agricultural Department have been sanctioned by the Secretary of State, and are now receiving effect.

Agricultural stations.

308. The Chaibassa Tassar Farm has proved a failure and has been closed. Fair progress was made during the year under report in placing the existing agricultural stations on a proper footing, and a demonstration farm was started at Sambalpur on land offered by Babu Ram Krishna Behara, a member of the District Agricultural Association. Arrangements are being made for the establishment of two more farms, one at Suri by the Birbhum District Agricultural Association, and the other in the Bettiah Ward's Estate in Champaran.

Agricultural education

309. The Bengal Agricultural College at Sabour was opened on the 3rd November 1910 with 21 students. The staff of the college as originally contemplated is now complete, but arrangements remain to be made for instruction in veterinary science. The agricultural classes attached to the Cuttack, Hazaribagh and Burdwan Schools, which were of no practical value, were closed during the year. The whole question of agricultural education in ordinary schools was considered in April 1911 at a conference held between officers of the Agricultural and Education departments. As the Sabour College is open to any one desiring an agricultural education, and no special preparation is required in order to pass the necessary qualifying tests for admission to the college, it was agreed that agricultural classes in ordinary schools should be discontinued, and that a simple course of nature study should be prescribed for such schools. It has been decided to award prizes from the funds of the Agricultural Department to *gurus* and students of *guru*-training schools, middle schools and primary schools, for the encouragement of nature study and the study of plant life. Details remain to be settled, but it is proposed to make an experiment first in the Orissa division. Cultivators' sons continued to receive practical training at the experimental stations.

Research and experiment

310. Various investigations and experiments were made in chemistry, botany, entomology and mycology, and in many cases useful results were obtained. The scientific botanical work was much facilitated by the completion of the Garden Laboratory at Sabour in July 1910, and plant-breeding operations were continued successfully.

The prices ruling in Calcutta were not sufficiently high to induce the Bihar Planters' Association to undertake the cultivation of jute, except for their own requirements. But the members of the Association cultivated sugarcane on an extensive scale, and, as the season was favourable, a good outturn was received. Indigo research was continued at Sirsiyah under the supervision of Mr. C. J. Bergthel. The station was badly flooded from the 29th of July to the 5th of August 1910, an event which caused a very serious loss of selected plants; but the year's work was not absolutely wasted.

inasmuch as a certain amount of useful experience was gained with regard to the method of the treatment of the indigo plant in pot culture and good progress was made in the collection of indigo-yielding plants. The Belgian flax expert, Mr E. Vondekorkhove, continued his work during the cold weather under his agreement with the Bihar Planters' Association.

311. The Bengal Silk Committee continued their useful and practical operations for the improvement of the silk industry. At a special meeting held in April 1911 they came to the conclusion that the policy hitherto followed of trying to produce an improved seed of each of the three Bengal breeds of silk-worms, in the hope of "producing" silk equal in quality to Chinese, Japanese or Italian silk, required a change. The efforts made had not arrested the decline of the industry; and on the advice of Mr. Lefroy, the Imperial Entomologist, it was decided to give a trial to a system of hybridising under the supervision of a capable expert. The negotiations have been entrusted to Messrs. Anderson, Wright & Co., who are arranging, through their head office at Lyons, for the deputation of a French expert to undertake these duties. Another important change on which the Committee decided was the concentration of operations in central nurseries, which will afford a better chance for the production of pure seed under effective supervision than small outlying nurseries where such supervision is practically impossible. Steps are being taken to give effect to this decision. It has also been decided to provide for the disinfection of village rearing houses; for, so long as the surroundings of these rearing houses are infected, it is useless to provide the rearers with pure seed. Supervisors will be trained in the central nurseries and sent out on disinfection duty as soon as their training is complete. The total sale-proceeds of the outturn of the existing nurseries amounted to Rs. 7,858 during the year under report as compared with Rs. 6,566 in the previous year and Rs. 5,874 in 1908-09.

Sericulture.

312. The work of the Fishery Department consisted mainly of—

Fisheries

- (1) experiments in the breeding of carp in confined water;
- (2) investigations conducted with a view to discover the spawning grounds of *hilsa*;
- (3) experiments in *bheri* culture; and
- (4) a fishery survey of the Monghyr district.

Much useful information has been collected, but the results so far achieved are inconclusive. The work of this department is expected to receive considerable encouragement from the supervision of the fishery expert, whose appointment as Deputy Director of Fisheries has been sanctioned by the Secretary of State. The Deputy Director reported his arrival after the close of the year.

313. With the institution of an Association in the Tirhut division, each division has now an Agricultural Association of its own. Besides these, there are a Central Association in Calcutta and thirty District Associations. The District Association at Howrah was closed as none of the members took any interest in agricultural matters. Mr. E. J. Woodhouse, who was in charge of the exhibition work in this province, prepared a scheme for the standardization of the work which has been accepted. Twenty-three agricultural and cattle shows were held in different parts of the province during the year; they received grants from Government aggregating Rs. 5,800.

Agricultural
Associations,
fairs and
shows

314. Well-boring, the only work now done under this head, was unavoidably confined within narrow limits. Altogether 34 borings were made as against 38 in the previous year. An attempt is being made to obtain a thoroughly trained superintendent; and, if it proves successful, the operations will receive the encouragement which they need, especially in the districts of the Patna division, where they are likely to be much appreciated.

Agricultural
Engineering.

315. As in the previous year, the Agricultural Department published a number of reports and notes, besides the Quarterly Journal of Agriculture, and gave wide publication to leaflets in English and the vernaculars.

Publication of
agricultural
information.

316. The first regular wage census was taken in April 1911, and a report will be published in due course. Arboriculture under District Boards continued to receive attention.

Miscellaneous.

Co-operative Credit Societies.

[Report on the working of Co-operative Credit Societies in Bengal for 1910-11. Statistics of British India—Part II—Commercial.]

Development

317. There was steady though cautious progress throughout the year under review. The rate of advance was considerably above that of previous years, as the following tabular summary shows:—

YEAR	Central societies	URBAN SOCIETIES		RURAL SOCIETIES		Total number of societies	Member-ship	Capital (excluding value of grain).
		Limited liability	Un-limited liability	Lend-ing cash	Lend-ing grain			
								Rs
1905-06	...	4	...	53	..	57	2,606	32,000
1906-07	...	4	..	173	4	181	7,884	1,10,000
1907-08	..	9	10	326	5	350	12,094	2,25,000
1908-09	.. 2	13	16	359	5	395	14,604	3,65,000
1909-10	.. 4	25	22	456	4	511	22,874	6,96,993
1910-11	.. 8	34	19	650	4	715	35,250	10,95,379

Urban Societies

318. The urban development has been wholly spontaneous. The Registrar, regarding the rural movement as having the first and chief claim on his time, has left the urban branch of the work to develop naturally. The societies composed of Government subordinates and the employes of mercantile firms continue to benefit their members at a profit, moral and financial, to all concerned. The Midnapore People's Bank, which is open to all residents of Midnapore town, is a promising experiment in urban co-operation, properly so-called, which it is hoped will be repeated in other urban communities.

Rural Societies

319. On the rural side of the movement much useful work has been done both in the consolidation and expansion of established areas, and in the opening of new centres. The average village society has become a more effective institution, financially stronger and better managed. The sum of members' deposits has risen from Rs. 64,000 to Rs. 1,16,000, and the funds are employed to good purpose. More than one-third is employed for the repayment of debts, one-tenth for the purchase of cattle, while less than one-twenty fifth is used for marriage expenses. In the actual working of societies the Registrar reports a very general improvement while admitting that many are still very far from perfection. Economically the development must be regarded as satisfactory. Outside the purely economic sphere the influence of the societies is being felt. Their interest in education, sanitation, and the well-being of their villages, the healing of party feuds and the employment of their *panchayets* in the settlement of local disputes are indications of the very valuable functions which co-operative societies may one day perform in village administration.

Central Banking Unions

320. The problem of how to make the societies provide for their own finance and control becomes increasingly important as the movement expands. Special interest therefore attaches to the Central Banking Unions. Their number has risen from four to eight, and this experiment in centralisation is now on its trial in every territorial division of the province. One or two, notably Rampur Hat, have been somewhat ineffective, and one, Karuli, has been handicapped by climatic misfortune. But the rest have done very useful work. They have organised 88 societies, with considerable care as a rule; their arrangements for supervising affiliated societies are adequate, and on the whole fairly well carried out, and, especially when linked to a joint stock bank, they have supplied that much-felt want, fluid capital. Most of them have made their own arrangements for capital, and several are now paying their own inspecting clerks. It is hoped that before long they will be both financially and administratively independent of the Registrar.

Weather and Crops.

[Season and Crop Report of Bengal for 1910-11 Crop forecasts of Bengal for 1910-11 Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Lower Provinces for 1910-11 Area and yield of certain principal crops in India, 1910-11 Agricultural Statistics of India, Volume I]

321. • Light showers fell in March. The rainfall in April and May, though general, was deficient. In June the rainfall was defective in Bengal proper, but was generally above the average in the rest of the Province. At the end of July and beginning of August there was excessive rain and floods in Bihar and also in Nadia, Murshidabad, Cuttack and Angul, causing some damage to the standing crops. In September and October the rainfall was general, and as a result the winter rice was greatly benefited, and the preparation of lands for *rabi* sowings was commenced at the proper time. In November there was no rain except in Bihar and parts of Chota Nagpur, where the fall was above the average. A dry December followed. In January the rainfall was general and proved beneficial to the spring crops.

The table below shows the estimated area and outturn in 1910-11 of *bhadoi*, winter and *rabi* crops, in comparison with the corresponding estimates of the previous year and of a normal year.

Names of harvest	Normal area in acres	Area cultivated during 1909-10 in acres	Area cultivated during 1910-11 in acres	Taking 100 to represent the normal outturn, how much represented the outturn for the year 1909-10	Taking 100 to represent the normal outturn, how much represented the outturn for the year 1910-11.
<i>Bhadoi</i> ...	11,433,400	10,997,600	10,507,400	101	90
Winter { Winter rice ...	20,888,200	21,232,900	20,947,700	110	112
{ Sugarcane ...	384,700	337,500	346,600	80	100
<i>Rabi</i> ...	12,579,900	10,825,100	11,364,700	90	100
Total	45,286,200	43,393,100	43,166,400	102	103

322. The above statement shows that the total area cultivated during 1910-11 with different kinds of *bhadoi* crops was estimated at 10,507,400 acres, as against 10,997,600 acres in the preceding year, the normal area under *bhadoi* crops being 11,433,400 acres. The outturn was estimated at 90 per cent. in 1910-11, 10 per cent. less than in 1909-10. The rainfall was scanty in March and April. May was showery, but the fall was defective in most districts. Sowing was taken up at about the usual time, but want of moisture was felt. Rainfall was sufficient later on and favourable weather conditions prevailed. At the end of July and beginning of August there was excessive rain with floods in Bihar, as well as in Nadia, Murshidabad, Cuttack and Angul, and in these districts the crops were damaged. The rainfall in September was general. In Chota Nagpur, Burdwan, Birbhum and Khulna, good crops were harvested. In other districts except Bankura the crop was fair. Injury was done by insects in Champaran and Sambalpur. The total area under *bhadoi* food-crops was estimated at 9,323,400 acres as compared with a normal area of 9,454,400 acres. The total area sown with all the different kinds of *bhadoi* non-food crops, including jute, early cotton, indigo and *bhadoi* *til*, was estimated at 1,184,000 acres as compared with 1,220,300 acres of last year. Rainfall during the sowing time in each of the important jute-growing localities was short. In March, Purnea was the only district which had received a normal amount, and in April and May the rainfall was generally deficient except in Nadia and Jessore, and hence sowings, though begun at the normal time, were prolonged to a late season in many parts. The weather conditions in June and July were, on the whole, not unfavourable, but

considerable damage was done by excessive rain and floods in parts of Purnea, Jessore, Nadia, Murshidabad, Darjeeling and the Sonthal Parganas. Rainfall in August was below the normal except in Nadia and Murshidabad, but this rather improved the growth of the crop in the neighbourhood of Calcutta. In Nadia some damage was done by insects. The outturn of the crop was estimated by this department at 82 per cent. of the normal. The total yield for the province, including Cooch Behar, amounted to 14 46 lakhs of bales. In the early part of the season weather conditions were generally favourable for indigo, but the defective rainfall between March and May retarded the growth of the crop. In July and August excessive rain and floods caused considerable damage to the crop in the important districts of North Bihar and in Purnea. Injury was caused by insects in Saran and Muzaffarpur. The gross yield for the province worked out to 20,311 factory maunds.

Aghani crops.

323. The monsoon was not very vigorous in the early part of the transplanting period, and in consequence transplantation was delayed in a few districts. There was also excessive rain and floods in July and in the beginning of August in parts of Nadia, Murshidabad, Cuttack and in the Bihar districts especially in Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur. The season for the province as a whole, however, was very favourable for the growth of the winter rice crop, as the rainfall in September and October did much good to the crop at the time of its maturity. The area sown with winter rice in 1910-11 amounted to 20,947,700 acres, as against 21,232,900 acres sown in the preceding year, the normal area under the crop being 20,888,200 acres. The outturn of the crop for the province was estimated at 112 per cent. of the normal against 110 per cent. estimated last year. Sugarcane is most important in Bihar. Outside that area it is cultivated chiefly in Burdwan, Bankura, Midnapore, Hazaribagh and Manbhum. The weather conditions were generally favourable, and though some damage was done by excessive rain in Darjeeling, Nadia and parts of Hooghly and Muzaffarpur, the provincial outturn was normal, i.e., 100 per cent.

Rabi or spring crops

324. Good rain fell in September and October, and there was sufficient moisture for the *rabi* sowings which were begun at the usual time. In November there was no rain except in Bihar and in parts of Chota Nagpur, where the fall was above the average. This month was followed by a dry December. In January the rainfall was general and proved beneficial to the *rabi* crops, especially in Bihar. In February light showers only fell in Darjeeling and in the districts of Orissa and Lower Bengal. Sambalpur and Bankura excepted, but the prospects of the crops continued favourable. In Midnapore, Nadia, Murshidabad, Jessore, Cuttack and Ranchi certain *rabi* crops suffered for want of timely rain. Heavy rain in March accompanied with hail did damage to the crops in some districts. The season was favourable this year for the *rabi* crops, especially in Bihar. The total area under all kinds of *rabi* crops was estimated at 11,364,700 acres, as against 10,825,100 acres last year, the total normal area under these crops being 12,579,900 acres. The total area of various *rabi* food-crops including wheat amounted to 8,474,400 acres (against 8,058,400 acres in the preceding year), leaving a balance of 2,890,300 acres sown with the different *rabi* non-food crops, as against 2,766,700 acres, the estimate for the year 1909-10. The total outturn was estimated at 100 per cent. of the normal. The season was favourable for the early variety of the cotton crop. In the Sonthal Parganas, which occupies about one-third of the total area under this crop, good weather conditions prevailed throughout. The season was less favourable for the late cotton, as in the important districts of Saran and Muzaffarpur the crop was somewhat damaged by excessive rain and floods. In other late cotton districts the crop was fairly good. The total outturn of the cotton crops (both early and late) for the whole province, including Native States, was estimated at 18,618 bales, or 1,241 bales more than in the previous year.

Divisional Summary. Burdwan.

325. During the year the rainfall of the Burdwan division was below the normal mean, but it was evenly distributed throughout the sowing and transplanting seasons, and the outturn of the winter rice crop exceeded that of the previous year except in Bankura and in the adjacent Arambagh subdivision of Hooghly. The deficiency prejudicially affected the *rabi* crops,

however, so that the outturn of the division as a whole, was below the normal. This harvest is, however, comparatively unimportant.

The total outturn of the different *bhadoi* food crops of the division was 90 per cent. and that of winter rice 91 per cent. *Rabi* food-crops yielded 82 per cent. of the normal.

326. The rainfall in the Presidency division during the year, though less than in 1909-10, was more copious than in any of the three preceding years. The crops were satisfactory in the 24 Parganas, Khulna and Murshidabad and also in Nadia and Jessore. *Bhadoi* food-crops in the division yielded 71 per cent. and winter rice 93 per cent. of the normal, while the outturn of all *rabi* food-crops was estimated at 74 per cent. Presidency.

327. The rainfall of the Patna division, which was above the normal in all districts, was, on the whole, favourable from an agricultural point of view. The outturn of the *bhadoi* food-crops for the division as a whole amounted to 73 per cent., of winter rice to 99 per cent., and of *rabi* food-crops to 95 per cent. of the normal yield. The outturn of opium and sugarcane was 91 and 92 per cent., respectively. Patna

328. In Tirhut, continuous rain in July caused high floods in Champaran, Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga, which damaged the *bhadoi* crops. The winter rice crop, which was also damaged, was to a large extent restored by retransplantation after the floods had subsided. The silt deposited by the floods proved very beneficial to the *rabi* crops. The outturn of the *bhadoi* food-crops in this division was estimated at 68 per cent., of winter rice at 88 per cent. and of *rabi* food-crops at 97 per cent. Opium and sugarcane yielded 83 and 90 per cent. respectively of the normal and indigo 67 per cent. Tirhut

329. The rainfall of the Bhagalpur division was abundant for the *bhadoi* and *agham* crops and sufficient for the *rabi* crops and was well distributed. Heavy floods in some parts of Monghyr contributed to the failure of *bhadoi* crops, but the good harvests in other parts of the district have counterbalanced this. The *bhadoi* food-crops of the division gave an outturn of 92 per cent., of winter rice 105 per cent. and of *rabi* food crops 87 per cent. The yield of indigo and opium was 60 and 72 per cent. of the normal, respectively, while that of sugarcane was 95 per cent. Bhagalpur

330. In the Orissa division, the rainfall in Cuttack, Angul and Puri was higher than in any of the preceding four years. In Balasore, it was sufficient and evenly distributed. In Sambalpur it was somewhat irregular. With the exception of Sambalpur, the outturn of the principal crops in the division in comparison with 1909-10 shows, on the whole, an improvement. The yield of the *bhadoi* food-crops of the division was estimated at 84 per cent., while winter rice gave an outturn of 109 per cent. The outturn of *rabi* food-crops was returned at 74 per cent. of a normal yield. Orissa

331. In Chota Nagpur, the total rainfall was above the normal in the districts of Ranchi and Hazaribagh, and below it in Palamau, Manbhum, and Singhbhum. The deficiency however did not materially affect the outturn of crops, and the year was reported to be one of agricultural prosperity. The *bhadoi* food-crops of the division gave an outturn of 95 per cent., of winter rice 105 per cent. and of *rabi* food-crops 76 per cent. of the normal. Chota Nagpur.

Horticulture.

[Annual Report of the Royal Botanic Garden and other Gardens in Calcutta and of the Lloyd Botanic Garden, Darjeeling, for the year 1910-11.]

332. Although there was a somewhat exceptional absence of rain during the latter half of the year, the Royal Botanic Garden suffered but little. In addition to the routine work of the garden proper, certain special works, such as the filling up of a stagnant pond and the continuance of the revetment of the river bank, were undertaken during the year under review. The most important outdoor improvement was the installation of a new pumping plant for keeping up the level of the garden lakes during the cold and hot seasons. General.

A new coloured map of the garden on the scale of 250 feet to an inch has been published, and copies of it are available for sale to the public. As usual, arboricultural instruction was given to selected overseers from Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam during the rains.

Economic 333. The interchange of seeds and plants of economic importance with those of other Botanical Gardens and Forestry Departments throughout the world has been well up to the average. Altogether 5,700 plants and over 1,600 packets of seeds were received. About forty species of economic and ornamental shrubs and trees hitherto unrepresented in the garden collection were introduced during the year. Nearly 40,700 plants and over 5,200 packets of seeds were distributed. Six thousand plants of *Azolla* were sent to different parts, with a view to test its power of preventing the generation of mosquito larvæ in tanks.

Herbarium. 334. Over 16,000 specimens were added to the Herbarium by collection, exchange or purchase, most of which were Indian, though the extra-Indian contributions were also numerous. The total number of duplicates distributed was nearly 12,000, chiefly of Eastern Himalayan and Malayan species. They were sent to about fifty different botanical institutions throughout the world.

Lloyd Botanic Garden. 335. The Lloyd Botanic Garden has been kept in order throughout the year. The lawns have been improved, and in the upper indigenous division of the garden the removal of some overhanging trees has given the garden a more even appearance. Over 140 trees and young shrubs were planted out during the year under review. The survey of the garden was completed, and a list of non-herbaceous plants made out with information as to the life history of all the new plants. A revised map of the garden, the contours of which have considerably altered of late years, has been prepared together with sketch maps of each 100' x 100' square on which the position of each specimen is marked for future reference. Exclusive of additions of a purely horticultural character, 368 plants and 166 packets of seeds were received, and over 6,500 plants, over 4,700 dozens of seedlings and over 370 packets of seeds were distributed.

Calcutta Gardens 336. In the Calcutta gardens, consisting of the Eden, Dalhousie Square, Curzon and Hastings House Gardens, the prolongation of the rains until about the end of October interfered greatly with the sowing of cold weather annual seeds, and a falling off in the usual show of flowers seemed unavoidable. Fortunately, although the rains came late, the final result was satisfactory. Much improvement was effected in the northern part of the Eden Gardens. In the Curzon Garden the lavish display of beds of flowering annuals called for a great amount of labour, which however yielded very successful results. With effect from the 1st April 1910 an Overseer has been appointed on probation to help the Assistant Curator in charge of these gardens in the work of their management.

Cinchona Plantation and Factory.

General. 337. Climatic conditions were favourable throughout the year. The rainfall on Mungpoo Plantation was 120·86 inches, distributed over 165 days, the heaviest fall being 4·81 inches in one day. On Munsong Plantation 98·53 inches of rain fell, the heaviest fall being 3·54 inches on one day.

Extension 338. During the year cinchona cultivation was extended on the Munsong Plantation only, where 145·5 acres in all were planted. Of this total, 70 acres were planted with *Cinchona Ledgeriana* in the Kashyem division, 60 acres with the same species in the Burmuk division and 15·5 acres with *Cinchona Officinalis* in the Kashyem division.

Outturn 339. The total quantity of bark worked up in the factory was 911,752 lbs., which yielded 39,980 lbs. of quinine sulphate, and 150 lbs. of residual alkaloid. No cinchona febrifuge was manufactured during the year, the stock in hand being sufficient to meet the demand. The year's yield of quinine sulphate exceeded that of the previous year by 16,882½ lbs.

Forests.

[Annual Progress Report of the Forest Department in the Province of Bengal for 1910-11—Statistics of British India, Part IV(b)—Finance and Revenue]

340. An Imperial Forest Officer has been deputed for five years from the 4th November 1910 to the Feudatory States of Orissa, to work entirely under the Political Officer. A proposal is now before Government to reduce the Singhbhum Forest Division, which is a heavy charge, by transferring certain forests to the Chaibassa Division, which would thus be enlarged and made into a major charge under an Imperial Forest Officer. A much-needed improvement of the pay and prospects of the officers of the Provincial Forest Service has been secured by the introduction of the time-scale of pay with effect from the 1st March 1911. The pay of the ministerial establishment has also been improved.

Changes in
Administration

341. The most important measure which engaged attention during the year was the reservation of certain protected forests with a view to ensure satisfactory management. In certain cases steps have already been taken to this end, while in others the proposals of the local officers are either still pending or have for various reasons been rejected. Some progress was made in forest settlements and also in the demarcation of boundaries. But under the latter head much remains to be done in protected forests. All possible efforts will be made to push on the work of demarcation where necessary.

Administrative
measures

342. The work of opening out the forests by the construction of new lines of communication did not receive any great impetus during the year. The total length of new cart roads (32 miles) and bridle paths (37 miles) taken together was the same as in the previous year, and the expenditure incurred (Rs. 16,296) was also about the same (Rs. 15,254). Including repairs to existing roads and paths the total expenditure under this head amounted to Rs. 33,524, as against Rs. 27,726 spent during the previous year.

Communica-
tions and
buildings.

343. The forest offences reported during the year numbered 2,518, the average of the previous three years being 2,196. The increase, which occurred in the Tista, Kurseong, Palamau, Chaibassa, Sambalpur and Sundarbans divisions, is more apparent than real, as it was due mainly to greater vigilance resulting in more cases being reported.

Breaches of
Forest Law.

344. The clearance of external fire lines and the division of blocks of forest into smaller sections by internal fire lines received greater attention than in the previous year. The area over which fire protection was attempted during the year comprised 1,212,071 acres of reserved forests and 222,357 acres of protected forests, as against 1,207,962 acres and 6,730 acres, respectively, in the previous year, but the latter figure is exclusive of 186,827 acres in the protected forests of the Sonthal Parganas, which appear to have been inadvertently left out of account. The percentage of success, so far as the reserved forests are concerned, was 98.7 as compared with 98.3 in the previous year. The variations in percentages of success ranged from total or almost total success in the three hill divisions (Tista, Kurseong and Darjeeling) and Angul and Puri to 96.7 in Singhbhum. This is on the whole satisfactory, regard being had to the fact that owing to high temperatures and the absence of rain the season was unfavourable in the plains divisions generally. The Nepal side of the frontier fire line adjoining Darjeeling was not cleared last season, but steps for the annual clearing of that part of the fire line have since been taken by the Durbar. The arrangements on the boundaries between Native States and fire-protected forests in Singhbhum, Puri and Angul are satisfactory.

Protection
from fire

345. The area open to grazing was about the same as in the previous year, but the number of cattle reported as impounded during the year was 1,332 as against 1,059, the average for the three preceding years. The increase was chiefly in the Puri division, where a scarcity of fodder in the more open forests, caused by drought, resulted in cattle straying into the reserves closed to grazing. There was also a considerable increase in unauthorized grazing in the Tista Division, which is attributed to large numbers of cattle being kept by coolies employed on tea estates near the forest boundary of the

Protection
from cattle
and against
injuries from
natural causes

**PRODUCTION
AND
DISTRIBUTION.**

Jaldhaka Range. In Angul damage to *sal* poles in the forests frequented by herds of elephants is still considerable, and it has been decided to continue the Khedda operations, steps being taken to effect ready sales of the elephants caught. The last season's Khedda resulted in the capture of 26 elephants. Damage due to other causes is still considerable in many places, but protective measures are being taken as far as possible. No serious damage was caused by frost or storms.

**Financial
results**

346. The Angul division still continued to be worked at a deficit. The Darjeeling and Chaibassa divisions are also worked at a deficit, but on the whole, from a financial and commercial point of view, the results of the year's working do not appear to be unsatisfactory, although the net income amounted to Rs. 4,69,286 as against Rs. 5,13,787, the average of the preceding five years. There was a decrease in the total revenue from Rs. 11,27,30 in 1909-10 to Rs. 11,19,720 in the year under review. It was mainly under the head of timber and other produce removed by consumers or purchasers, owing to sales not having been effected in Angul and to shortage in sales in Puri. The balance of timber in stock thus amounted to 50,818 cubic feet, as against 23,733 cubic feet at the close of the previous year. The total expenditure rose to Rs. 6,50,434 from Rs. 6,02,031 in the previous year, the quinquennial average being Rs. 6,34,848. But 46 per cent. of the expenditure against 43 per cent. in the previous year was incurred on extension, constitution, improvement and exploitation of the forests, while the administrative, executive and protective charges amounted to 4 per cent. as against 57 per cent. in the year 1909-10. It is also to be noted that the expenditure of the year includes a sum of Rs. 19,643 paid to the Raja of Porahat in Singhbhum as profit from his forests which are managed by Government.

Manufactures and Mines.

[Statistics of British India, Part I—Industrial]

Jute.

347. The area under jute in the province including Cooch Behar increased from 575,400 acres with an outturn of 1,329,400 bales to 587,800 acres with an outturn of 1,446,000 bales. Fifty-eight jute mills were at work at the close of the year, as against fifty-seven in 1909, giving daily employment to 210,547 persons, an increase of 8,289. The nominal rupee and sterling capital employed was Rs. 7,08,05,000 and £2,913,358, the same as in 1909-1910.

Cotton.

348. There were 13 cotton mills at work at the end of the year as against 12 at work during each of the three preceding years. The nominal rupee capital sunk in these mills increased from Rs. 1,15,75,000 to Rs. 1,34,75,000, but the average daily number of hands employed fell from 10,505 in 1909-10 to 10,093.

Tea

349. The only districts in Bengal in which the tea industry is carried on are Darjeeling, Ranchi and Hazaribagh. It is important in the first two districts, but is insignificant in Hazaribagh. The total quantity manufactured in the two districts of the Chota Nagpur Division was 274,887 lbs., as against 257,967 lbs. in the previous year, and in Darjeeling 14,137,400 lbs., or 597,262 lbs. less than that in the previous year.

Coal.

350. Four hundred and eighteen coal mines were worked during the year 1910, compared with four hundred and sixty-five in the previous year. The total output was 10,778,530 tons, which is more than the quantity raised in 1909 by 117,719 tons. There are now signs that the industry has recovered from the check which was an inevitable result of overproduction, and the increase in outturn amounting to 1 per cent. indicates once more a healthy rate of expansion. The daily average number of persons employed in the mines in Bengal fell, however, from 102,253 to 98,281.

**Mica and iron
ore.**

351. The output of mica decreased from 22,084 cwts. to 18,357 cwts., valued at Rs. 6,60,210. The total amount of iron raised was 42,653 tons, a decrease of 30,058 tons, and its value is estimated at Rs. 99,270, a fall of Rs. 1,17,195. This was due to reduced outturn in the districts of Burdwan and Manbhum.

PRODUCTION
AND
DISTRIBUTION.
Manganese
ore.

352. During the year 41,958 tons of Manganese ore, valued at Rs. 6,18,885, were produced, as against 55,060 tons, valued at Rs. 6,53,445, in the previous year. The market continued in a depressed condition and the price was practically unchanged.

353. The total area under indigo was 144,900 acres, as against 107,400 acres in the previous year. The outturn increased from 17,007 maunds to 20,000 maunds, and would have been better but for defective rainfall between March and May, heavy rains and floods in July and August, and the damage caused by insects in Saran and Muzaffarpur.

354. Six thousand seven hundred and seventy-two tons of saltpetre, valued at Rs. 13,81,485, and 22 tons of salt, valued at Rs. 201, excluding salt duty, were manufactured in the province during 1910.

355. In the Presidency division sugar is manufactured in almost all the districts. The industry is declining owing to the competition of imported bounty-fed sugar in Nadia and Jessore. Though the outturn of both sugar and molasses was greater than in the previous year, the value of sugar declined. Other districts where sugar is manufactured are Birbhum and Midnapore in the Burdwan division, and all districts in the Tirhut and Patna divisions. The manufacturers at Nasriganj in the subdivision of Sasaram, in the district of Shahabad, continued to flourish, and the factories at Bara, Seeraha and Parsa in Champaran and Jhapaha and Qutur in Muzaffarpur worked satisfactorily in spite of the floods and competition of imported Java sugar.

MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURES IN EACH DIVISION.

[Miscellaneous Annual Reports of Divisional Commissioners for 1910-11.]

356. Among the larger industries in the Presidency division may be mentioned the jute, cotton and paper mills on the banks of the Hooghly, and in the suburbs of Calcutta. The Cotton Spinning Mohini Mill at Kushtia (district Nadia) is a successful Indian enterprise, while hand-made cotton cloth is manufactured throughout the division and silk in Murshidabad and the 24 Parganas. Smaller industries flourish in the different parts of the division, tanneries, bone-crushing and the manufacture of shoes, cigarettes, umbrellas and tin-boxes in and around Calcutta; mat-weaving, the weaving of palm-leaf strings for straw hats and the manufacture of brass padlocks in the 24 Parganas; weaving in Basirhat and Kushtia subdivisions and in Jessore and Khulna; and the comb, button and mat factory in Jessore. Sugar and molasses are chiefly manufactured from sugarcane and date juice in the districts of Jessore and Khulna and in some parts of the 24 Parganas and Nadia.

357. The principal articles of manufacture are *tassar* and silk in all the districts of the Burdwan division, except Howrah; while jute and cotton mills are of importance in the districts of Hooghly and Howrah. Of minor industries, molasses and shellac toys are manufactured in Birbhum, rope in Hooghly and Howrah; conch-shells in Birbhum and Bankura, brass and bell-metal utensils, cutlery throughout the division, and paper in the paper mills and pottery at the Pottery Works at Raniganj. The silk produced at Memari and Bagtikra in Burdwan is of superior quality, and is exported to Bombay and Madras, where it is said to be in special demand. The most important factories in the division are those of the Bengal Iron and Steel Works at Barakar, Messrs. Buru and Company's Pottery at Raniganj, Lime Works at Ondal, Brick and Tile Works at Durgapur, the Bengal Paper Mills at Raniganj, the Dyers' and Tanners' Extract Company at Bansrah in the district of Burdwan, the numerous Jute and Cotton Mills in Hooghly and Howrah and the Chemical Factories in Hooghly.

358. The chief articles of manufacture in the Bhagalpur division are tobacco, molasses, coarse cloth and mixed silk and cotton fabrics called *baftz*. In Monghyr the American Penninsular Tobacco Company, though carrying on the manufacture of cigarettes on a large scale, could scarcely supply the demand which has increased considerably. At Jhajha in the same district the manufacture of *bais* (country-made tobacco cuttings wrapped up in *sâl* leaves) has been started. The district of Monghyr is also the centre of other industries, such as mica-mining, slate quarrying, brick-making, the manufacture of sugar by country processes and cloth-making by native looms. There are two

PRODUCTION
AND
DISTRIBUTION

Patna.

steel trunk factories in Bhagalpur. Iron smelting is carried on by a race known as Kols in the Sonthal Parganas, and the iron so obtained is used in preparing utensils and implements for domestic and agricultural purposes.

359. Besides opium, which is manufactured in the Gulzarbag Factory in Patna, the other principal articles of manufacture in this division are sugar and saltpetre. A variety of articles are manufactured on a small scale, such as glass, which is made by the hand process in the City of Patna, *chameli* oil in Barh, *tassar* and *dosutti* in Futwa and Khusrupur in the district of Patna; stoneware, padlocks and metal ware in the district of Gaya; and carpet, pottery, stone-carving, country cloth and lime in the district of Shahabad. The mica-mining industry flourishes in the Nawada subdivision, and the corn mill and ice factory in the town of Gaya.

Tirhut

360. The principal articles of manufacture in Tirhut are indigo, saltpetre and sugar. Indigo is manufactured in all districts of the division, and there has been an increase in both the outturn and the value in all districts except Saran. The manufacture of saltpetre continued to be under the control of the Northern India Salt Department. Sugar is manufactured in all districts of the division to meet the demand in the rural areas for native sugar; in the towns the trade in native sugar is handicapped by competition with the imported article. Other articles of manufacture are bell-metal, brass utensils, carpets, coarse cloths called *motia* and earthenware pots in Saran; sleepers, mother-of-pearl buttons, woollen blankets, carpets and *nagar* in the district of Champaran, carpets, grass-mats and baskets, wood-work toys, *hooka* stems, rough cutlery, ploughshares, axe-heads and other implements in the district of Muzaffarpur; and *kokti* and brass utensils in Darbhanga. The *eri* silk industry is being kept up at Muzaffarpur.

Chota Nagpur.

361. By far the most important industry in the Chota Nagpur division is coal, and next to it are the industries of lac and mica-mining. The development of the iron industry in Singhbhum was very marked. Messrs. Tata and Company are making rapid progress with the erection of their very extensive Iron and Steel Works. Minor articles of manufacture are guns, sword-sticks, knives, axes, spears and scissors in Manbhum; brass and bell-metal materials and ornaments in Hazaribagh, Ranchi, Manbhum and Singhbhum; and coarse cotton clothes, soap-stone and tea in Ranchi and Hazaribagh.

Orissa.

362. The manufacture of brass and bell-metal utensils is of importance in Orissa, and the industry shows signs of progress. The filigree work of Cuttack and the manufacture of stone utensils in some parts of Bolasore have earned a reputation in and outside Orissa. The Utkal Tannery at Jobra tans leather and manufactures boots and other leather articles. The oil and flour mill started in Sambalpur is reported to be making satisfactory progress. Cotton and *tassar* cloths are manufactured in various places throughout the division, but they are of coarse and inferior quality. A kind of *tassar* cloth manufactured in Sambalpur by a class of weavers called Kustas is highly appreciated for its durability, fineness of texture and workmanship, and is sold in different places in Bombay, Madras and the Central Provinces.

Working of the Indian Factories Act.

[Annual Reports of the Divisional Commissioners and the Chief Inspector of Factories for 1910.
Statistics of British India, Part I—Industrial]

Number of
factories and
system of work.

363. The number of factories at the close of the year was 256, as against 250 at the close of 1909. Twelve new factories were brought under the operation of the Act during the year under report, viz., one in Calcutta, four in the 24-Parganas, one in Howrah, one in Hooghly, two in Burdwan, two in Midnapore and one in Nadia, while six factories in all were excluded from it, viz., two in Calcutta and four in the 24-Parganas. There were 53 jute mills working in Bengal. The Central Jute Press in Calcutta, started during the year, is worthy of mention as its hydraulic pumps are driven by electricity of a very high voltage (5,000). In 113 factories work was carried on by means of shifts or sets, in 122 with midday stoppages, in 10 under a system of shifts and midday stoppages combined, and in 7 with other arrangements. The

PRODUCTION
AND
DISTRIBUTION.

total average daily number of operatives employed was 306,883, as compared with 309,680 employed during the preceding year.

364. Inspections were made in 9 factories once, in 10 factories twice, in 33 factories thrice and in 199 factories more than three times. Only four factories were not inspected during the year. The inspections testify to the keen and practical interest taken in their work, by the Chief Inspector and his Assistant. The suggestions and recommendations of the Inspecting Officers with regard to matters connected with the proper working of factories, received due attention from the managers concerned.

365. The sanitary arrangements of most of the factories were excellent. A few of the smaller factories in the 24 Parganas are gradually replacing insanitary latrines of the old pattern by more up-to-date structures. In the Jamialpur Workshop the septic installation, which was still a project under consideration in 1909, was completed during the year under review, and is reported to be a great improvement on the old system. Most of the factories have provided excellent quarters for their operatives, and the sanitary arrangements in these were generally found to be good.

366. The water-supply in almost all the factories throughout the year was adequate and good.

367. The general health of the operatives was reported to be good throughout the year. With the exception of outbreaks of cholera and plague which occurred during the months of February to April, epidemic diseases were scarcely known in any factories throughout the Province.

Vaccination was carried out where necessary. In some instances, those who objected to vaccination and those who refused to be vaccinated were not admitted into the factory.

368. There was no marked change in the rates of wages during the year under report, owing to the favourable prices of food-grains. The condition of the operatives was, on the whole, good.

369. The rules regarding the employment of women and children were for the most part carefully observed. The work done by the Certifying Surgeon of Factories in connection with the certification of the age of children has been attended with excellent results. Fourteen thousand and twenty-six children were certified during the year, of whom 1,911 were under legal age and were rejected as unfit for work. The satisfactory results reported in this connection indicated the desirability of placing additional factories under his supervision; his jurisdiction has accordingly been recently extended so as to include 12 large mills on the west side of the river Hooghly.

370. The adoption of automatic stop-gears approved by the Inspector of Factories has been made compulsory in all jute mills. Gear of this kind has now been adopted in the jute mills of the Presidency and Burdwan divisions, with the result that there have been no accidents in them since April last. The application of small safety-rollers has also reduced the number of accidents at the calendar machines. The machinery of the factories in other divisions is reported to be well guarded, and the instructions of the Inspecting officers in this connection were duly observed by the Managers.

371. The large increase in the number of accidents (from 998 in 1909 to 1,268 in 1910) is more apparent than real. It is attributed to the fact that there has been more efficient and systematic inspection and more care in the submission of accident reports. Managers have also been called upon more frequently to submit supplementary reports, with the result that many accidents, which would in the usual course have been recorded as merely "serious," were ultimately found to have proved "fatal." Hence the increase in the number of "fatal" accidents from 52 in 1909 to 79 in 1910. Such accidents appear to be due for the most part to the carelessness of the operatives.

372. There were eight prosecutions under the Act in the 24 Parganas and Howrah districts during the year, of which six were successful. No prosecutions are reported from the other districts of the province.

373. A serious fire broke out in the Sack Sewing Department of the Sibpur Jute Mills in Howrah on the 22nd March 1910. The loss sustained by the owner, to whom no blame is attached in the matter, was estimated

Inspections

Sanitary
arrangements
and quarters
for operatives.

Water-supply

General health
of the opera-
tives.Wages and
general condi-
tion of the
operatives.Employment of
women and
children.Fencing of
machinery.

Accidents.

Prosecutions

Fires

PRODUCTION
AND
DISTRIBUTION.

Strikes.

at about two lakhs of rupees; two operatives were burnt to death. On the 26th October last another fire broke out in the Krishna Jute Press at Sulkea in Howrah, but was not attended by any loss of life.

374. On 24th October 1910 a strike occurred at the Spinning Department of the Fuleswar Cotton Mills in the district of Howrah. This was due to the fact that the coolies were required to attend work at 7-30 instead of 8-30 A.M. The strikers, however, resumed work on the 27th of the same month at the hour prescribed by the mill authorities; no breach of the peace had been committed. On the 16th November 1910 there was another strike among the workers of the Reeling Department of the same mills. A case was instituted by the Police under section 143, Indian Penal Code, against seven of the operatives, who were convicted by the Subdivisional Officer of Ulubaria. The mill started work again on the 2nd December 1910. A third strike occurred in the Hydraulic Jute Press in Howrah district on the 24th October last. The strike lasted only for four hours and ended on a slight increase in the rates of wages of the jute-carrying coolies being sanctioned.

Trade.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal—Annual statement of the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of the Bengal Presidency—Annual statement of the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India with the British Empire and Foreign countries—Annual statement of the Coastwise Trade and Navigation of British India—Review of the Trade of India—Statistics of British India, Part II—Commercial]

I - FOREIGN SEA-BORNE TRADE

(Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1910-11)

Foreign trade.
Merchandise.

375. The trade of the province in 1910-11 represents an advance of 8.5 per cent. on the total of 1909-10. Both imports and exports show increases, the former, one of 4.1 per cent., and the latter, one of 11.4 per cent.

The extent to which the foreign trade of the province is centred in the chief port, Calcutta, will be apparent from the following figures (000's omitted):—

Merchandise—		Province Rs.	Calcutta Rs.	Subordinate ports. Rs.
Imports	...	48,54,08	48,54,07	1
Exports	...	78,33,32	77,86,40	46,92

The trade of the subordinate ports is made up chiefly of exports of rice.

Treasure

376. Imports of treasure were valued at Rs. 506 lakhs, as compared with Rs. 544.58 lakhs in the preceding year, a decrease of 7 per cent. The exports, on the other hand, showed an increase of 167.1 per cent, the figure having risen from Rs. 16.9 lakhs to Rs. 45.14 lakhs. State transactions in treasure during the year were limited to an insignificant parcel of gold valued at Rs. 585. All the treasure imported into, and exported from, the province of Bengal was received at or sent from Calcutta.

IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE

Principal
articles
imported

377. This section of the foreign sea-borne trade of Bengal forms about 38.3 per cent. of the total. Its value in 1910-11 was Rs. 48.54 crores, as against Rs. 46.62 crores in 1909-10, an advance of 4.1 per cent. The value was distributed as follows among the principal articles (*figures are in thousands of rupees*):—

	1909-09 Rs.	1909-10 Rs.	1910-11 Rs.
Cotton goods	16,20,81	20,20,80	20,53,87
Metals	5,19,38	5,51,16	5,63,60
Sugar	4,61,61	5,02,23	5,91,95
Machinery and millwork	2,91,38	1,82,02	1,90,02
Railway plant and rolling stock	2,64,00	2,12,64	1,16,54
Kerosene oil	1,24,16	84,49	68,11
Hardware and cutlery	96,42	96,87	1,10,08
Woollen goods	77,22	52,67	75,45
Salt	67,35	52,28	53,38
Chemicals and drugs	56,39	64,18	70,20
Spices	57,27	52,84	71,50
Liquors	56,96	59,80	59,12

PRODUCTION
AND
DISTRIBUTION
Cotton goods.

378. The imports of cotton goods disclose a decline in quantity, but the value, which amounted to Rs. 30.54 crores and represented 42.3 per cent. of the value of total imports, shows an increase of Rs. 33 lakhs, or 1.6 per cent. This resulted from the relatively higher prices ruling throughout the period. Imports of twist and yarn amounted to 8.67 million lbs, being valued at Rs. 77.77 lakhs, a decrease of 18 per cent in quantity, but only one of 5.1 per cent. in value. The arrivals of piece-goods aggregated 1,139.39 million yards, and were valued at Rs. 18.54 crores. These figures represent a decrease of 9.2 per cent. in quantity, but an increase of about 1 per cent. in value. The reduction in quantity occurs mainly in grey goods, which contracted by 123.6 million yards (-13 per cent.); white goods disclose a shrinkage of 11.96 million yards (-6.4 per cent.), but coloured goods show an improvement of 19.54 million yards, or 16.7 per cent. Other cotton fabrics increased by Rs. 24.12 lakhs (+24.8 per cent.). Of the entire trade in cotton goods, 93.6 per cent. was derived from the United Kingdom, as against 94.6 per cent. in 1909-10, while Japan, with 2.3 per cent., continued to retain the second place.

379. The value of the year's imports amounted to Rs. 563.6 lakhs, an improvement of 2.3 per cent. With the exception of brass, iron and tin, the other items show increases. Iron declined by Rs. 17.92 lakhs, or 7.3 per cent., the shrinkage occurring chiefly in galvanised plates and sheets. Copper, wrought and unwrought, is marked by an advance of 15 per cent., the increase being most noticeable under unwrought copper. Arrivals of steel were higher by 6.8 per cent. in volume and 10.5 per cent. in value, and helped to counterbalance the falling off under iron. Imports of tin were restricted owing to the abnormal prices prevailing during the year. The fluctuations in other metals do not call for special remarks.

380. Sugar represents about 12.2 per cent of the total value of goods imported, and in the year under review moved from the third to the second place in the scale of single articles of greatest importance. Excluding confectionery, the quantity imported was 7,593,156 cwts, with a value of Rs. 586.7 lakhs, an increase of 26.7 per cent in quantity and one of 18 per cent. in value. In spite of the high prices of the year, imports were very brisk. Of the total quantity imported, some 90 per cent was received from Java, while Mauritius supplied 628,709 cwts., or 8.3 per cent. The shortness of the European beet crop is reflected in the poor arrivals from Austria-Hungary, they aggregated 71,888 cwts., or 1 per cent of the total receipts, as compared with 193,102 cwts., or 3.2 per cent. in the previous year.

381. Imports under this head advanced from Rs. 1.82 crores to Rs. 1.9 crores, or by 4.4 per cent. Jute machinery was in defect by some Rs. 9 lakhs as a result of the depression in that industry. But this deficiency was made good by the improvement recorded in unspecified descriptions of machinery. The largest increase, namely, one of Rs. 6 lakhs, was in electrical machinery mainly intended for the Tata Iron Works, tea machinery was also better by some Rs. 3 lakhs. The United Kingdom sent nearly 56 per cent of the total imports.

382. Imports on private account contracted from Rs. 213 lakhs to Rs. 117 lakhs, or by 45.2 per cent., but the aggregate of private and State imports shows a decline from Rs. 307 lakhs to Rs. 226 lakhs, or 26.5 per cent. only. Of the total imports, the United Kingdom accounted for 90 per cent., the share of Australia rose from Rs. 6.7 lakhs to Rs. 20.2 lakhs, due to larger indents from India for wooden sleepers.

383. The total importation of foreign kerosene oil was 16.48 million gallons, with a declared value of Rs. 68.11 lakhs, a decline of 32.2 per cent in volume and of 19.4 per cent. in value. Of the quantity received, 13.52 million gallons were brought in bulk and 2.96 million gallons in cases. The United States supplied some 69.6 per cent. There were no imports either from Russia or from Roumania.

384. This class exhibits an increase of 13.6 per cent., the imports being valued at Rs. 110.1 lakhs. The improvement occurred chiefly in the omnibus head "Hardware—other sorts."

385. The imports of woollen goods advanced from Rs. 52.67 lakhs to Rs. 75.45 lakhs, or by 43 per cent. The improvement was mainly in piece-goods from the United Kingdom, which country holds a practical monopoly of that

PRODUCTION
AND
DISTRIBUTION.

line. Woollen shawls also advanced by Rs. 5.98 lakhs, or by 48.9 per cent. Germany did 32 per cent of the trade, while the share of the United Kingdom was 62 per cent.

Salt.

386. The value of the imports of foreign salt amounted to Rs 53.38 lakhs, as compared with Rs. 52.28 lakhs in 1909-10. Imports of Liverpool salt amounted to 158,716 tons, of Spanish salt to 52,100 tons, and of salt from Red Sea ports and Aden, to 102,421 tons. Prices showed an upward tendency throughout the year.

Chemicals,
drugs and
medicines.

387. The value of imports under this class amounted to Rs 70.2 lakhs, as against Rs. 64.18 lakhs in the previous year. Chemicals improved from Rs. 31.59 lakhs to Rs. 35.81 lakhs. Imports of quinine exceeded those of the previous year by some 3.7 per cent. in volume and 17 per cent. in value. There is a continued demand for patent and proprietary medicines which come mainly from the United Kingdom

Tobacco

388. The enhanced duties which came into force from the 25th February 1910 disorganized the trade of the year. The imports amounted to 766,000 lbs. and had a value of Rs. 21.69 lakhs, as compared with 3.8 million lbs., with a value of Rs. 40.79 lakhs in 1909-10. Cigarettes, which made up so far the bulk of the trade, showed a fall of 64.6 per cent. in weight and of 284 millions in number, but the value declined only by 36.6 per cent, showing that the shrinkage was more marked in the inferior than in the superior qualities. Apart from curtailment in imports, a considerable amount of tobacco was re-shipped to China and the United Kingdom. Unmanufactured tobacco declined from 2,119,739 lbs. to 163,503 lbs. in quantity and from Rs. 8.55 lakhs to Rs 1.03 lakhs in value. Towards the close of the official year the enhanced rates of duty were reduced by about one-third.

Spices.

389. The total quantity of spices expanded from 80.81 million lbs. to 96.55 million lbs., and the value advanced from Rs. 52.84 lakhs to Rs. 71.5 lakhs. Betel-nuts and pepper, chiefly from the Straits Settlements, are the two premier items in this class. The imports of betel-nuts advanced by 13.57 million lbs., and the value was higher by Rs. 13.46 lakhs, or 30.6 per cent. Pepper, too, showed a considerable increase, the figures being 4 million lbs., with a value of Rs. 7.86 lakhs, as against 2.38 million lbs., valued at Rs. 4.47 lakhs in 1909-10.

Liquors

390. The higher rates of duties imposed towards the close of the preceding year had the effect of restricting the imports of spirits and wines. The total trade declined in volume by 53,117 gallons, or by 3.2 per cent., and in value by Rs. 68,214, or 1.1 per cent. Spirits, contracted by 61,323 gallons and Rs 1.16 lakhs, a decline of 9.6 per cent. in quantity and 3.1 per cent. in value. Wines showed a decline of 5.8 per cent., both in quantity as well as in value. White and rectified spirits dropped from 64,000 gallons to 39,000 gallons, and the imports of Java arrack, of which some 33,000 gallons were imported in 1909-10, practically ceased under the influence of the increased tariff.

Import trade
of Calcutta
with other
countries.

391. The following statement shows the relative shares of the principal contributing countries in the import trade (merchandise) of Calcutta.—

	1909-10	1910-11	1909-10	1910-11.
	Rs.	Rs.	Per cent.	Per cent
Total imports	46,62,15,500	48,54,07,250	100	100
United Kingdom	32,99,86,528	32,68,96,847	70.8	67.4
Java	4,52,29,662	5,39,18,205	9.7	11.1
Belgium	1,32,79,424	1,74,24,894	2.8	3.6
Germany	1,27,65,876	1,51,16,124	2.7	3.1
United States	1,39,31,948	1,15,97,723	3.0	2.4
Austria-Hungary	71,92,172	65,55,644	1.5	1.3

EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal, 1910-11]

Principal
articles
exported.

392. The export trade of the province in merchandise during 1910-11 formed nearly 62 per cent of the sum of imports and exports. Its value was Rs. 78.33 crores as compared with Rs. 70.32 crores in 1909-10, the increase being one of 11.4 per cent. The principal articles in the export trade of

Calcutta and their values are given in the following statement in the order of their importance (*figures are in thousands of rupees*).—

	1908-09.		1909-10.		1910-11.	
Jute, raw	16,81,91	32,50,77	13,11,00	30,15,64	13,61,43	30,54,07
„ manufactured	15,68,86		17,04,64		16,92,64	
Opium		6,29,78		6,85,76		10,61,40
Tea		7,47,58		8,08,21		8,45,02
Grain and pulse		2,64,94		5,54,35		6,95,45
Hides and skins		6,81,23		6,98,61		6,85,15
Oilseeds		2,46,96		3,46,63		6,07,92
Lac		2,76,53		2,76,48		2,10,90
Cotton, raw		73,94		1,22,00		94,84
Coal and cooke		50,47		67,07		76,92
Silk, raw		37,99		27,71		27,56
Indigo		36,24		24,42		24,96

393. Shipments of raw jute amounted to 11·63 million cwts., and were valued at Rs. 13·61 crores, a decline of 13 per cent. in volume, but an advance of 3·8 per cent. in value. Prices were stationary in the early part of the year. In August they rose slightly and at the beginning of September the quotation was Rs. 35 per bale. The publication that month of the district reports, which forecasted a short crop, namely, one of 6,205,200 bales, forced the prices to Rs. 45. The issue of the combined forecast of the two Directors of Agriculture towards the close of the month, which placed the crop at 7,932,000 bales, was accompanied by an immediate fall; but as the contraction in supplies became apparent, rates hardened again, and towards the close of the year transactions at Rs. 59 were recorded. The consumption in the local mills during the season ended on 30th June 1911 is estimated at 4,587,337 bales as against the actuals of 4,582,885 bales for the previous year. The United Kingdom, Germany, France and the United States of America (the four principal importers of the fibre) took smaller quantities than in 1909-10; their relative shares of the total quantity shipped were—United Kingdom, 35 per cent., Germany, 23·4 per cent., France, 11·8 per cent. and the United States of America, 9·8 per cent.

Jute, raw and
manufactured.

For jute manufactures, the year was a bad one owing to over-production, coupled with the high prices of the raw material. Shipments of gunny bags contracted by 3,863,500 in number or 1·1 per cent, the decline in value being one of Rs. 5·6 lakhs (or ·6 per cent). On the other hand, despatches of gunny cloth were in excess by 14,786,257 yards, or 1·6 per cent.; but the declared value was less by Rs. 7·8 lakhs, or ·9 per cent. The United States of America, the leading customer in this line, took 1·6 per cent. less value than in 1909-10. Australia occupied the second place and took 13·3 per cent. more than in the preceding year. While the United States take largely of cloth, because of the lower tariff rate for cloth as compared with that for bags, and make it up into bags, the bulk of Australia's takings consists of gunny bags. For the third year in succession the demand from the Argentine Republic has fallen. Both Chile and Peru took larger quantities to meet the increasing volume of business in nitrates. The Soya bean trade of Manchuria was disorganised by the appearance of plague, and consequently the demand for gunny bags from that quarter was very poor. Java's sugar trade is indenting more extensively on the Calcutta gunny bag market.

394. The exports of tea were higher than those of the previous year (themselves a record) and constitute a record. They aggregated 181,610,107 lbs., valued at Rs. 8·45 crores, as compared with 179,077,332 lbs., valued at Rs. 8·08 crores in the preceding year, an increase of 1·4 per cent. in volume and 4·6 per cent. in value. The average price realized at local sales was 7 annas 0·8 pie per lb., against 6 annas 10 pies of the previous year. Shipments to the United Kingdom amounted to 120·78 million lbs., with a declared value of Rs. 556·86 lakhs, and show a decrease of 5·6 and 3·3 per cent in volume and value, respectively, over the previous year's figures. Russia maintained the second position in the statistics, taking approximately 35 million lbs. Shipments to Australasia aggregated 9,320,510 lbs.

PRODUCTION
AND
DISTRIBUTION.

Opium.

marking an increase of 8·6 per cent. over the previous year's takings. Exports to the United States were less by 240,622 lbs., but the demand from Canada was better by 289,442 lbs.

395. During the year the sales of *provision* opium were further curtailed in pursuance of the declared policy of the Government of India. Shipments in 1910-11 totalled 37,121 chests, valued at Rs. 1,061·4 lakhs, and were smaller than those of the preceding year by 14·6 per cent. in volume; but the value shows an increase of 54·8 per cent, owing to a further rise in prices. The number of chests notified for sale in 1908 was 48,800; the quantity offered for sale in 1909 was 43,200 chests. In 1910, 39,600 chests were offered, while the quantity notified for sale in 1911 is 30,940 chests. The average price realised at Calcutta sales in 1910 was Rs. 2,673 per chest, as against Rs. 1,389 in the preceding year.

Hides and
skins.

396. Exports of raw hides aggregated 711,675 cwts., and were valued at Rs. 466·87 lakhs, yielding an average rate of Rs. 65·6 per cwt., as against Rs. 63·5 per cwt. in the previous year. Shipments of raw skins totalled 329,015 cwts., valued at Rs. 218·15 lakhs, a fall of 14·8 per cent. over the value of previous year's shipments. As in past years, Germany and the United States were the chief buyers, the former taking 324,735 cwts., valued at Rs. 206·93 lakhs, and the latter 292,237 cwts., valued at Rs. 181·1 lakhs.

Lac.

397. The quantity of lac shipped during the year amounted to 20,782 tons, valued at Rs. 210·9 lakhs, and fell short of the exports of the preceding year by 24·9 per cent. in volume and 23·7 per cent. in point of value. The declared shipment rate was Rs. 50·7 per cwt., as compared with Rs. 49·96 per cwt. in the preceding year. The United States took 39·7 per cent., the United Kingdom 25·5 per cent. and Germany 20·5 per cent. of the total exports.

Grain and
pulse.

398. Continued agricultural prosperity is reflected in the figures of exports of grain and pulse, which show a further improvement of 36 per cent. in volume and 25·5 per cent. in value. The two principal cereals of export are rice and wheat. The rice crop in Bengal was an excellent one; as a result, shipments to foreign countries were larger than they have been since the bumper year 1905-06. Ceylon maintained her position as the best customer, taking some 165,000 tons. Wheat had also a splendid year, the exports being the largest since 1904-05. The United Kingdom took 91·5 per cent. of the shipments. Other cereals also did well. The exports of pulses aggregated 1,900,176 cwts., with the declared value of Rs. 71·98 lakhs.

Oilseeds.

399. The year was one of excellent crops, and the quantity of seeds exported increased by 33·8 per cent. to nearly 300,000 tons, and the value by 75·4 per cent. to over Rs. 6 crores. Linseed is the premier seed of the export trade; and with bumper crops in the districts whence the supply is derived, shipments amounted to 4,544,896 cwts., against 2,847,009 cwts. in 1909-10, an increase of 57·4 per cent. Rapeseed stands next in rank of importance, but the crop in Bengal was not quite so favourable as in 1909-10, and shipments totalled 605,666 cwts. Other oilseeds, notably castor and tilseed, disclose appreciable increases.

Cotton, raw.

400. The share of Calcutta in the total exports of cotton, raw, from India was, on the average of five years ending 1909-10, 5·3 per cent., and in 1910-11 it was 2·95 per cent. only. The United Provinces, for which the port of Calcutta serves as an outlet, had a smaller crop, and as a consequence the volume of cotton, raw, exported contracted by 33·7 per cent., the figures being 256,447 cwts., valued at Rs. 94·84 lakhs, as compared with 386,932 cwts., valued at Rs. 122·01 lakhs. The year was one of high prices induced by the failure of the American crop, and this fact will be found reflected in the total recorded value which discloses a fall of 22·3 per cent. only, as contrasted with the stated fall of 33·7 per cent. in volume.

Coal and coke.

401. Of the total of 889,601 tons of Indian coal exported from India in 1910-11, Calcutta was the port of shipment for the entire quantity except 711 tons. The year's exports were 17·2 per cent. larger than those of 1909-10. Ceylon continues to be the best customer and India seems to be regaining the ground lost to Japan and Natal during the last few years. The Straits Settlements also took a larger quantity than in 1909-10, but Japan continues to be the premier supplier in that market. The total amount of coal raised in India during the year was 12,047,413 tons, the share of Bengal being

10,778,530 tons. The average price of Jhejiah coal during the year was Rs 2-15 per ton at pit's mouth.

402. The crop of the year suffered heavily from excessive rain and Indigo floods. As a consequence, the export figures of 1910-11, namely, 10,985 cwts., valued at Rs. 24-96 lakhs, are even lower than those of 1909-10, which were returned at 11,221 cwts., valued at Rs. 24-42 lakhs. The season's crop is stated to have shown marked improvement in quality and to have contained a comparatively large proportion of high grade indigo. The feature of the year's trade was the marked decrease in the shipments to Japan, a direct result of the new Japanese tariff. However, the United Kingdom, Austria-Hungary, Egypt, the United States of America and France, all took relatively larger quantities.

403. The exports of raw silk were smaller than those of 1909-10, but the year was one of high prices; as a result, the value is much the same as recorded in the year 1909-10. The statistics for 1910-11 are 964,873 lbs., valued at Rs. 27-56 lakhs, as compared with 1,126,445 lbs., valued at Rs. 27-71 lakhs in 1909-10. France took 74 per cent. in 1910-11.

404. The following statement shows the relative shares of the principal importing countries in the export trade (merchandise) of Calcutta:—

Export trade
of Calcutta
with foreign
countries.

		1909-10 Rs.	1910-11. Rs	1909-10. Percentage	1910-11.
Total exports	..	69,88,70,014	77,86,40,365	100	100
United Kingdom	...	17,63,72,988	18,93,84,169	25-3	24-3
United States America.	of	11,47,52,588	11,09,71,800	16-4	14-3
Germany	...	6,75,27,309	7,27,86,272	9-7	9-3
China	...	6,24,05,055	8,48,09,672	8-9	10-9
France	...	3,24,59,226	3,48,16,403	4-6	4-5
South America	...	2,69,32,717	2,52,65,694	3-9	3-2
Austria-Hungary	...	1,81,62,188	2,18,89,568	2-6	2-8
Italy	..	1,52,40,709	1,96,48,047	2-2	2-5

II—FRONTIER TRADE

[Report on the Trade of Bengal with Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan for 1910-11]

405. The leading commodities of import into Bengal are living animals, Nepal grain and pulse, principally rice, hides and skins, jute and oilseeds. The total number of animals imported decreased by about 15,000 head, but the declared value was higher by Rs. 12½ lakhs. Arrivals of rice rose from Rs. 53-02 lakhs to Rs. 89-54 lakhs, but it has to be borne in mind that the year 1909-10 was one of poor crops in Nepal. The quantity of hides and skins was better in the aggregate by Rs. 5-27 lakhs, or 42 per cent. There was a marked contraction in the imports of jute, the arrivals being 207 thousands of maunds, valued at about Rs. 10 lakhs, as compared with 339 thousands of maunds in 1909-10, valued at Rs. 18-68 lakhs. Oilseeds were slightly in defect in point of volume, but under the influence of better prices the value disclosed an advance of 12 per cent. Exports advanced from Rs 100 lakhs to Rs. 112 lakhs. Cotton goods, mainly piece-goods, were better by about Rs. 4 lakhs, or 15 per cent. Metals and manufactures of metals, the group next in rank of importance, improved from Rs. 6-79 lakhs to Rs. 12-40 lakhs, or 82-6 per cent. Movements of grain and pulse, which had been very brisk in the two preceding years owing to shortage of crops in Nepal, resumed normal conditions.

406. The trade with Tibet, which had suffered greatly in the preceding year owing to political uncertainty and a severe cattle epidemic, is marked by a satisfactory recovery. Imports were valued at Rs. 10-44 lakhs, as against Rs. 5-75 lakhs in 1909-10, while exports aggregated Rs. 8-14 lakhs, as against Rs. 7-09 lakhs. Raw wool constitutes the main staple of import, and its receipts amounted to about 35,000 maunds, valued at Rs. 6-76 lakhs, an increase of 56-5 per cent. in volume and 65-7 in value. Besides wool, the only articles of any importance on the import side are skins, musk and yaks' tails. On the export side, cotton piece-goods constitute the biggest item of export from Bengal. There was a considerable recovery from the stagnation of the

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preceding year, the despatches being better by Rs. 1.10 lakhs, or 70 per cent. The other prominent articles are woollen manufactures, apparel, tobacco, and silk manufactures; all of them, with the exception of woollen manufactures, showed increases varying from 44.5 to 190.2 per cent.

Sikkim.

407. Imports rose from Rs. 9.30 lakhs to Rs. 9.83 lakhs, an increase of 5.7 per cent. The leading articles of import were animals, fruits, vegetables and nuts, grain and pulse, ghi and spices; all of them, except grain and pulse, contributed towards the improvement. Exports receded by Rs. 1.17 lakhs; the articles chiefly responsible for the shrinkage were cotton piece-goods and grain and pulse.

Bhutan.

408. The total trade amounted to Rs. 24,245 as against Rs. 15,605 in the preceding year. Animals, living, foreign piece-goods and ghi continue to be the principal articles of commerce.

III—COASTING TRADE

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1910-11]

Coasting
trade.

409. The total value of the trade amounted to Rs. 1,752 lakhs as compared with Rs. 1,896 lakhs in 1909-10, the decrease being one of 7.6 per cent. Imports contracted from Rs. 1,004 lakhs to Rs. 818 lakhs (or by 18.5 per cent), while exports improved from Rs. 892.68 lakhs to Rs. 933.82 lakhs, or 4.6 per cent. The decline occurred mainly in Indian merchandise, fluctuations in foreign merchandise being of an unimportant character. Some 97 per cent. of the total trade belonged to Calcutta. The decrease recorded in the imports was brought about mainly by the small receipts of paddy and rice from Burma. The other items marked by important decreases are ground-nuts, cocoanut oil and chillies, mainly from Madras, and cotton grey piece goods from Bombay. The net improvement in exports resulted from the increases recorded in shipments of rice to Madras and of wheat to Burma. Jute manufactures declined in value by Rs. 4 lakhs, the decrease being mainly in gunny cloth shipments. Coal, the principal article in the export trade, declined by 1.6 per cent.

IV.—TRADE BY RAILWAY AND RIVER.

[Report on the Trade carried by Rail and River in 1910 11. Tables I and II]

Rail and
River-borne
trade.

410. The main division of this trade and its estimated value are exhibited in the following table:—

YEAR.		Exports from Bengal, including Calcutta, to other provinces	Imports into Bengal, including Calcutta, from other provinces.	Exports from Calcutta to the rest of Bengal	Imports into Calcutta from the rest of Bengal.
1909-1910	Mds.	104,425,075	71,492,681	30,849,829	177,481,512
	Rs	40,51,56,271	50,53,94,610	25,95,22,336	36,77,76,986
1910-1911	Mds.	111,895,036	71,622,118	28,012,162	201,957,640
	Rs	42,07,17,002	54,56,42,193	25,46,02,775	37,79,69,898

Of the total value of the imports into Bengal, including Calcutta (Rs. 54 crores), 56 per cent. represents the trade from Eastern Bengal and Assam, 28 per cent. from the United Provinces, 4 per cent. from the Central Provinces and Berar, 2 per cent. from the Punjab, and the balance 10 per cent. from other provinces. Of the total exports (Rs. 42 crores), 44 per cent. went to Eastern Bengal and Assam, 34 per cent. to the United Provinces, 3 per cent. to the Punjab, 4 per cent. to the Central Provinces and Berar, and the remainder 10 per cent. to other provinces.

The principal articles of import into Bengal, including Calcutta, were from Eastern Bengal and Assam, raw jute (Rs. 17 crores), tea (Rs. 7.4 crores) and hides and skins (Rs. 1.6 crores); from the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, oilseeds (Rs. 2.8 crores), wheat (Rs. 2.3 crores), opium (Rs. 1.99 crores), hides and skins (Rs. 1.5 crores), food-grain, excluding wheat (Rs. 1 crore), ghi

(Rs. 91 lakhs), cotton, raw (Rs. 81 lakhs), lac (Rs. 72 lakhs), from the Central Provinces and Berar, cotton, raw (Rs. 48 lakhs), oilseeds (Rs. 36 lakhs), cotton, twist and yarn, Indian (Rs. 31 lakhs), wheat (Rs. 22 lakhs); and from the Punjab, rape and mustard seeds (Rs. 44 lakhs), hides and skins (Rs. 24 lakhs), and raw cotton (Rs. 9 lakhs).

The exports from Bengal, including Calcutta, to Eastern Bengal and Assam, comprise mainly cotton manufactures (Rs. 6·3 crores), metals and manufactures of metals (Rs. 2·5 crores), sugar (Rs. 1·8 crores), oils (Rs. 1·7 crores), spices (Rs. 1 crore), food grains (Rs. 68 lakhs), and salt (Rs. 54 lakhs); to the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, cotton manufactures (Rs. 4·4 crores), sugar (Rs. 2 crores), metals and manufactures of metals (Rs. 1·7 crores), railway plant and rolling stock (Rs. 79 lakhs), rice, husked and unhusked (Rs. 72 lakhs), gunny bags and cloth (Rs. 64 lakhs), and kerosene oil (Rs. 59 lakhs); to the Punjab, cotton manufactures (Rs. 1 crore), gunny bags and cloth (Rs. 59 lakhs), coal and coke (Rs. 36 lakhs) and sugar (Rs. 18 lakhs), while exports to the Central Provinces and Berar consist principally of sugar (Rs. 31 lakhs), gunny bags and cloth (Rs. 21 lakhs), cotton piece-goods, foreign (Rs. 14 lakhs), silk, raw (Rs. 14 lakhs), kerosene oil (Rs. 13 lakhs), and coal and coke (Rs. 11 lakhs).

PUBLIC WORKS.

Establishment.

411. Under the arrangement previously in force the Superintending Engineer, Western Circle, whose head-quarters are at Ranchi, had to inspect the local works in the districts of Burdwan and Hooghly. This arrangement was not convenient, as it involved travelling over long distances and consequent delays. Accordingly, the Burdwan district was placed under the Superintending Engineer, South-Western Circle and Hooghly under the Superintending Engineer, Central Circle, the head-quarters of both these officers being at Calcutta. The Murshidabad district was also transferred from the charge of the Superintending Engineer, Central Circle, to that of the Superintending Engineer, South-Western Circle.

412. Rules were framed in 1901 for the appointment of officers to the Engineer Establishment and of subordinates to the Upper Subordinate Establishment of the Public Works Department in Bengal. These rules, however, subsequently required revision owing to the creation of the new Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, the introduction of new graduate courses in Engineering by the Calcutta University, the creation of the Joint Technical Examination Board to control and conduct the Overseer and Sub-Overseer examinations of the schools of the two provinces and the introduction of the new Overseer courses proposed by the Board. Under the rules, as revised, the board of Examiners will be constituted as follows. (1) a Superintending Engineer of this Province, (2) an Executive Engineer of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, and (3) a Professor of the Civil Engineering College, Sibpur. The marks on the theoretical subjects at the University examination are now taken into account at the practical examination in the case of graduate students, who will henceforth be appointed Overseers, first grade, in the Upper Subordinate Establishment.

413. The Engineers trained in Indian Engineering Colleges submitted a memorial representing certain disabilities with regard to the Provincial Engineer Service. The chief reforms for which they asked were as follows: (1) that the two branches of the service be incorporated into one, (2) that if the Provincial Service is maintained, the pay may be increased, (3) that Provincial Service Engineers of tried merit be promoted to the Imperial Branch; (4) that all the Indian Colleges be thrown open to any statutory Indian residing in any part of India, and (5) that half the total number of Engineers recruited by the Government, both for the Public Works Department and State Railways, be recruited from the Indian Colleges, etc. The Upper Subordinates of this province also submitted memorials for the reorganization of their service. They asked for—(1) increased travelling allowance, (2) increased subdivisional

Changes of
jurisdiction.Constitution of
the Board of
ExaminersProvincial
Upper
Subordinate
Services

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allowance, and (3) opportunities for promotion to the Provincial Engineer Service. These memorials have been forwarded to the Government of India with the views of this Government.

Changes
introduced by
the Government
of India.

414. During the year under review two changes of importance have been made by the Government of India, which affect the conditions of service in the Department. In the first place, appointments to and promotions in, the Superintending Engineer classes of the Public Works Department, hitherto made by the Government of India, will in future be made by the Local Government. This delegation of power was based on the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Decentralisation, and received effect from the 1st January 1911. In the second place, Civil Sub-Engineers of the Public Works Department, who are for the most part officers of over 20 years' service employed in the responsible and semi-independent position of Subdivisional Officer, have received the rank of gazetted officers.

Buildings.

Expenditure.

415. The total outlay of the year on works amounted to Rs. 1,14,57,746, of which Rs. 67,91,013 were spent by the Public Works Department and Rs. 46,66,733 by local authorities. Of the expenditure of Rs. 67,91,013 incurred by the Public Works Department, Rs. 14,71,413 were spent on Imperial works, Rs. 49,74,631 on Provincial works and Rs. 3,44,969 on local and contribution works.

IMPERIAL WORKS

Civil Works
Salt and
Opium

416. An electric installation was put up in the Sulkea salt *golahs* at a cost of Rs. 5,951. Thorough repairs to the Saw Mill Engineer's residence at Gulzarbagh in Patna, known as "Hoshiarbagh Kothi," were in progress. "Bandalling" was done to the river Ganges near the Opium Factory at Gulzarbagh for improving the channels. Additions and alterations to the Opium Agent's residence at Sewan were completed.

Post and Tele-
graph Offices

417. Several structural alterations and improvements, such as making openings in the Rotunda, improving the light in the Parcels Department by removing a wall and reconstructing the mail van shed, etc., were carried out in the General Post Office building, Calcutta, at a cost of Rs. 20,750. Improvements were also in progress in the Presidency Postmaster's quarters. A combined Post and Telegraph office at Howrah was under construction. Combined Post and Telegraph offices with Postmaster's quarters were constructed at Chandnichouk (Cuttack) and Tamluk. Additions were made to the Purnea Post Office. A post-office with Postmaster's quarters was built at Bud-Bud. Additions and alterations to the gangways of the racks in the Check Office of the Central Telegraph Office, Calcutta, were carried out at a cost of Rs. 7,426. At the Telegraph store yard, Dullunda, two double-storied barracks were under construction, the corrugated iron sheds Nos. 1-37 and 1-38 were dismantled and re-erected on another site, and the extension of the Municipal sewer through the compound was completed.

Secretariat
Buildings

418. Good progress was made with the new Imperial Secretariat buildings in Council House Street, Calcutta, for the accommodation of the Commerce and Industry Department of the Government of India and other offices.

Currency Office

419. The construction of new out-buildings and several structural alterations and additions to the Paper Currency Office, Calcutta, which were in progress in the previous year, were completed at a total cost of Rs. 1,52,599. Electric lights and fans were installed in the new building for the fire-proof vault.

Printing,
Stamps and
Stationery

420. A new Press building in Dhurumtollah Street, Calcutta, was under construction during the year. New buildings for the Stamps and Stationery Office in Church Lane, Calcutta, were commenced and the masonry work up to plinth level was completed.

Miscellaneous

421. The lighting of the compound of Hastings House, Calcutta, was carried out. The construction of a church at Sambalpur was taken in hand.

The second storey of the billiard room and the verandah on the east side of the Residency building at Khatmandu were completed. The work of revetting the north and east banks of the river Sireswa to prevent encroachment on the compound of the Resident's bungalow at Raxaul was taken up, the eastern side was completed and the north side nearly finished. Fire protection apparatus, including a Merryweather patent valiant fire engine with the necessary accessories, was supplied to the Agricultural College at Pusa.

PROVINCIAL WORKS

422. An overbridge with balcony connecting the new and old High Court buildings, Calcutta, was constructed and the Prisoners' Dock in the Sessions Court-room was extended and strengthened.

423. The construction of additional buildings for the Midnapore Collectorate, at an estimated total cost of Rs. 1,95,000, was commenced, and the foundations and plinth of both the Western and Eastern blocks were completed. Additional accommodation for the Civil Courts and offices at Jessore was completed at a total expenditure of Rs. 62,444. The construction of a new Civil Court at Cuttack, for which an estimate, amounting to Rs. 1,87,572, was sanctioned, was taken in hand. Some petty works in connection with the iron record racks in the District Judge's Court at Midnapore were executed at a cost of Rs. 7,367. The construction of a new record-room for the Judge's Court at Purnea, at an estimated cost of Rs. 18,375 was started. Additions and alterations were made to the Munsif's Court at Bongong. The reconstruction of the Sub-Judge's Court at Chapia, which was destroyed by fire, was completed, and a further extension made to the building in order to provide increased accommodation. The work of additions and alterations to the Subdivisional Court building at Godda, in the district of the Sonthal Parganas, was completed at a cost of Rs. 8,584, and additions and alterations to the Subdivisional Court building at Aurangabad were in progress.

424. The additions and improvements to the old circuit-house at Bandel (Hooghly) were completed. The dining-hall and upper south verandah of the building were floored with marble, while the grounds attached to the building were also improved.

425. In the Russa Distillery certain additions and alterations were made to the still shed No. 1 and other works at a total cost of Rs. 9,674. Quarters were constructed for the Distillery Superintendent at Sambalpur. A liquor depôt was constructed at Banka, in the district of Bhagalpur.

426. The guest house at Government House, Darjeeling, was completed, and several improvements were also carried out to the buildings of Government House. Special repairs were executed to the Judicial Commissioner's residence at Ranchi, and certain improvements to the building were in progress towards the close of the year. The residence for the Deputy Commissioner at Sambalpur was completed. The construction of a residence for the Executive Engineer at Ranchi was started and the masonry work in the main building finished. Land was acquired for a residence for the Civil Surgeon at Purulia, bricks were collected for the construction of the building and the work was commenced. Munsifs' quarters were constructed at Narail, Magura, Jhenidah, Bantan and Tamluk. The old Subdivisional Court at Sassaram was converted into a Munsif's residence. The main building and servants' quarters of the Subdivisional residence at Magura were reconstructed, and residences for the tahsildar at Banki and the Subdivisional Officer at Phulbani were constructed.

427. At the new Presidency Jail, Alipore, the construction of the Jail Press, consisting of three blocks, was in progress, the quarters for the Superintendent and the Deputy Superintendent and the compound wall with railings round the staff quarters were completed, and a 60" diameter Municipal sewer along the Judge's Court road was constructed by this Department on behalf of the Calcutta Corporation at a cost of Rs. 1,01,585. Quarters for warders were constructed in the compound of the Juvenile Jail, Alipore, at a cost of Rs. 9,646. The construction of a sub-jail at Banki in Orissa was started. The solitary cells and the fixing of a day latrine in connection with the

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enlargement of the sub-jail at Diamond Harbour were completed at a cost of Rs. 23,526. Additions and alterations were made to the sub-jail at Satkhina to render it more secure. Certain additions and alterations were made to the water-works in the Buxar Central Jail. Work in connection with the extension of the Khulna Jail was well advanced, and among other works the gate buildings, hospital and Head-warder's quarters were completed. A new hospital in the Krishnagar Jail was nearly finished. The sub-jails at Tamluk and Madhubani, the re-building of the outer wall of the district jail at Chapra and the Head-warder's quarters in the sub-jail at Nawada in the district of Gaya, were completed.

Police.

428. To provide accommodation for the police guards attached to Government House and the Imperial Secretariat buildings, Calcutta, a barrack was constructed, at a cost of Rs. 39,841, at premises No. 14, Crooked Lane, after dismantling the old buildings. A new thana building at No. 72, Garden Reach, was constructed at a cost of Rs. 64,337. Additions and alterations to the Duff College building, Calcutta, which was purchased by Government to adapt it for the accommodation of the Northern Police Division, were completed at a total expenditure of Rs. 1,33,332. The outpost buildings at Bamangachi and Malipanchgura were completed. Quarters were constructed for the Sergeant of the Armed Police at Midnapore. A two-storied barrack with out houses was constructed for the Town outpost at Chandernagore and at Salubganj. The construction of a barrack and a cookshed for 14 constables in the sadar thana at Khulna was taken in hand. At Dorunda (Ranchi) special repairs were executed to the bungalow for the residence and office of the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Burdwan Range, improvements were made in the buildings of the Police Training College, and the residence of the Deputy Superintendent of Police was thoroughly repaired. Quarters were built for the Court Sub-Inspector at Arambagh, and a cookshed was erected for 75 constables in the Constables' Training School at Berhampore.

Educational.

429. A new hostel called the "Baker Hostel" was constructed for the Muhammadan students of the Calcutta Madrasa at a total cost of Rs. 1,52,915. A new block for the zilla school at Ranchi was in progress. In the Reformatory School, Hazaribagh, three 22-seated latrines and three 15-seated urinals of the Alipore pattern were erected, the old hospital was converted into a dormitory and a store-room constructed and certain additions and alterations to the school were begun. An estimate amounting to Rs. 20,840 was sanctioned for improving the existing school building of the High School, Darjeeling, and constructing additional class-rooms, the masonry of the first floor of the new building was completed and the second floor and revetment walls were in progress.

The following works, which had been commenced during the previous year, were completed during 1910-11 —

- (1) Constructing a boarding house for 30 boarders with two cooksheds for Hindu and Muhammadan boarders of the Bankura Zilla School.
- (2) Additions and alterations to the Government Industrial School at Ranchi.
- (3) A new zilla school at Charbassa.

Medical.

430. A ward for insane lepers was constructed in the compound of the Albert Victor Leprosy Asylum, Gobra, at a cost of Rs. 11,166. At the Medical College Hospital, Calcutta, the construction of the Fourth or Administrative block was nearly completed, the old Nurses' quarters were converted into Lady Superintendent's quarters, and the Surgical Block was completed and opened by Her Excellency Lady Hardinge on the 22nd March 1911. In the General Hospital, Cuttack, the construction of a covered passage between the Surgical Ward and the Operating-room in the General Hospital, which was in progress last year, was completed and an office building for the Civil Surgeon was commenced. The remodelling of the Pilgrim Hospital, Puri, was completed.

Miscellaneous

431. Fire-extinguishing appliances (galvanized iron buckets and iron tanks) were supplied to all the Civil Court buildings in Bengal at a cost of Rs. 6,355. The work of filling up the low-lands on the east of the land acquired for official residences at Howrah was completed at an expenditure of Rs. 61,706.

The construction of two bungalows at the Munsong Cinchona Plantation, in the Darjeeling district, for the residence of the officers in charge, at an estimated cost of Rs. 16,238, was taken in hand by the Manager of the Plantation.

432. Internal gas and water fittings, additions and alterations to the Indian Professors' quarters and other works, including the supply of fittings and furniture in the Agricultural College buildings at Sabour (Bhagalpur), were completed at a total expenditure of Rs. 73,263. Agriculture

433. The extension and improvement of the Indian Museum building, Calcutta, were in progress and the masonry up to the level of the third floor was completed. The servants' quarters at the Museum were finished, and the taxidermists and carpenters' shops were in progress. A Cottage Ward was constructed at the Victoria Zenana Hospital, Calcutta, at an expenditure of Rs. 18,700. Additions and alterations to the Boiler Inspector's quarters at Bhaga, in the district of Mahbhum, were in progress. A new hospital at Rajmahal was under construction. Servants' quarters were constructed at the Eden Sanitarium, Darjeeling, and certain improvements to the charitable dispensary at Darjeeling, for which an estimate amounting to Rs. 5,625 was sanctioned, were in progress. Contribution works.

434. An additional record-room with racks was constructed as an extension to the Sadar Registration office at Muzaffarpur at a cost of Rs. 10,541. Sub-Registry offices were constructed at Onda and Indas, in the Bankura district. Registration

Communications.

435. To protect the town of Burdwan, which was inundated in July 1905 by the flooding of the river Banka, an estimate was sanctioned for the construction of a causeway in the 75th mile of the Grand Trunk Road; materials were also collected and work done on the two long walls. Metal was renewed along several miles of the Grand Trunk Road between miles 52 and 146 in the Burdwan district, and bridges and culverts were repaired. Earthwork for making up the flanks was done. The inspection bungalows at Bud Bud, Rajband, Mohunpur and Barakar were thoroughly repaired. Burdwan.

436. The flanks and sides of the Mohunpur-Khargpur Road were very badly scoured by the heavy rains, and the cart traffic on the road being considerable, laterite metal to the thickness of six inches was spread and consolidated throughout the whole length of the road. Midnapore

437. Flood damage and special repairs to the Hatia submerged bridge, on the 8th mile of the Ranchi-Chaibassa Road, 1st section, were carried out. The wooden platform of the Roio bridge at the 20th mile in the second section of the Ranchi-Chaibassa Road was replaced by a steel trough and metalling. Singhbhum

438. It has been settled with the Board of Directors of the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway Company that the whole of the Government share of the surplus profits of the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway in such years as they exceed the maintenance charges of the Hill Cart Road will be devoted to the improvement of the alignment of the road. Formerly such portion of the Government's share of surplus profits as exceeded the expenditure on the Hill Cart Road had to be returned to the Company. A new cart road, 5 miles and 4,400 feet in length, from the 6th mile of Jore Bungalow to the Teesta Road *via* Peshoke and up to the new cantonment for Gurkhas at Hum, near Rangh Ranghot, was commenced at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,28,300, and considerable progress has been made with the work. Materials were collected for the construction of a new Inspection Bungalow at Kalijhora. Darjeeling.

439. The work of improvement of the Sambalpur-Cuttack Road, Khalsa section, which was interrupted last year, was resumed, and considerable progress has been made. Earthwork on the flanks in miles Nos. 5 to 10, 13 to 15, 19 and 20, was completed, and consolidation of road metal for Sambalpur

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9½ miles. Thirty-six culverts were built and the construction of the major bridges is approaching completion. Four Inspection Bungalows at Jajumura and Mandhar on the Khalsa section of the Cuttack-Sambalpur Road at Jharsugada and at Sohella on the Raipur-Sambalpur Road were completed.

ARBORICULTURE.

440. The planting and maintenance of trees along the roads in the charge of the Public Works Department in the Province were carried on to the extent of the funds available.

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

Calcutta.

441. The Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, were authorized to supply electric energy for power and other purposes at a standard pressure from 6,000 to 6,600 volts, by means of a three-phase alternating current at a periodicity of 50 cycles, to meet the demands of large consumers, such as jute presses, etc. Previous to the passing of the Indian Electricity Act of 1910, the Government of India contemplated establishing an Imperial Standard Electrical Laboratory in Calcutta, by equipping the existing laboratory of the Government of Bengal with certain additional apparatus necessary to render it suitable for making the standard tests. The position was, however, modified by the new Act which provides for Local Governments making their own laboratory arrangements for all ordinary testing work, and the Government of India have therefore, in consultation with the Government of Bengal, decided that the latter authority should retain this laboratory for all ordinary testing work, the additional apparatus obtained by the Government of India in order to complete the equipment of that laboratory being taken over and paid for by the Government of Bengal.

Balasore

442. Certain additions, alterations and repairs were made to the Marine Officer's residence at Chandbally, and the construction of the Light-keeper's quarters at Shortt's Island was completed.

Manbhum.

443. Sanction was given to Messrs Macneill & Co., Managing Agents of the Equitable Coal Company, Limited, to generate electricity at a pressure of 6,000 volts in their colliery at Chowrassi, in the district of Manbhum, and to arrange for its distribution through aerial lines to various points of the colliery.

Nepal Frontier

444. The boundary pillars between Nepal and British territory along the bank of the Mechi river, in the Darjeeling district, which were washed away, were refixed during the year under review. Two estimates for the renewal of the boundary embankments between Nepal and British territory running along the Araria and Kishangaon subdivisions of the Purnea district were sanctioned, and the work was still in progress at the close of the year.

CONTRIBUTION WORKS.

Darjeeling.

445. The construction of two additional bazar sheds for the Matigara and Nuxalbari *hats* in the Darjeeling district was commenced and almost completed, while a water-supply scheme at Kurseong was sanctioned and the work taken in hand.

Railways.

Adminis-
tration.

446. There are no railways under the direct administration of the Government of Bengal. The more important lines are under the control of the Government of India (Railway Board.) The following small lines of

local importance are subject to a certain measure of control by the Government of Bengal:—

	Gauge	Miles.
	Ft. in.	
(1) Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway	2 0	51 00
(2) Deoghur Railway	3 3½	4 79
(3) Tarakeswar-Mogra Railway	2 6	33 27
(4) Howrah-Amta Light Railway	2 0	43 87
(5) Howrah-Sheakhalla Light Railway	2 0	19 75
(6) Bakhtiarpur-Bihar Light Railway	2 6	28 00
(7) Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway	2 6	51 12
(8) Dehri-Rohtas Light Railway	2 6	23 80
(9) Arrah-Sasaram Light Railway	2 6	60 50

316.10

447. During the year the open mileage was increased as follows:—

Additions to
mileage.

STANDARD GAUGE (5' 6").

Miles.

Eastern Bengal State Railway—

Extension of Damukdia Ghât mainline to Ranta	5 20
Patipooker to Chitpur	1 17

Bengal-Nagpur Railway—

Kalmati to Onlajori	34 12
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East Indian Railway—

Barharwa to Dhulean (Ganges)	16 72
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METRE GAUGE (3' 3½").

Tirhut State Railway—

Bhagalpur Station to Bhagalpur Cutcherry	1 44
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2' 6" GAUGE.

Arrah-Sasaram Light Railway	..	60 50
Dehri-Rohtas Light Railway	...	23 80

With these additions, the open mileage in the Province on 1st April 1911 was as follows —

	Miles.
Standard gauge	2,954 71
Metre gauge	1,155 56
2' 6" gauge	355 63
2' 0" gauge	114 62

448. The following lines were under construction at the close of the calendar year 1910 —

Lines under
construction.

Eastern-Bengal State Railway—

	Gauge.	Miles
	Ft. in.	
Lower Ganges Bridge	5 6	13 82
Dum-Dum Junction to Canal Junction	5 6	2 84

Bengal-Nagpur Railway—

Bhojudih to Pathordih	5 6	0 18
Kalmati-Gurumasuli	5 6	40 10

East Indian Railway—

Bhagalpur-Bausi	5 6	31 04
Barharwa-Katwa	5 6	102 70
Hooghly-Katwa	5 6	64 80

Tirhut State Railway—

Pertabganj-Bheemnagar	3 3½	13 44
Bagmati Bridge at Dheng and approaches	3 3½	4 91
Samastipur-Roserah	3 3½	17 20

	Gauge. Ft. in	Miles.
<i>Bengal and North-Western Railway—</i>		
Gogra Bridge at Manjhi Ghât and approaches	3 3½	4 41
Gandak Bridge at Bagaha and approaches	3 3½	5 43
Arrah-Sasaram Light Railway	2 6	60·50
Dehri-Rohtas Light Railway	2 6	22 80

Lanes sanctioned for construction

449. The following lines were sanctioned for construction—

<i>Bengal-Nagpur Railway—</i>		
Mahuda to Jamuni	5 6	12 00
Ranchi-Lohardaga	2 6	42 83
<i>Tinhat State Railway—</i>		
Khagaria-Roserah	3 3½	37 00
<i>Bengal and North-Western Railway—</i>		
Thawe-Captanganj*	3 3½	59·75
Jessore-Jhenidah Railway	2 6	28·90
Kaliganj-Kotchandpur	2 6	7 90
Howrah-Amta (Antpur-Rajbalhat)	2 0	3·50

Surveys completed

450. The following surveys were completed during the year 1910—

- (1) By the Bengal-Nagpur Railway—For the 2' 6" gauge extension of the Ranchi branch from Ranchi to Lohardaga, 43 miles.
- (2) By the East Indian Railway—
 - (i) For the 5' 6" gauge, re-survey of the Mokameh Bridge project, 6·30 miles.
 - (ii) Reconnaissance for a 2' gauge from Hazaribagh Road Station to Hazaribagh, 40 miles.
- (3) Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway—For the 2' gauge, from—
 - (i) Darjeeling to Lebong, about 4½ miles;
 - (ii) Ghum to Tukdah Hum), about 8 miles;
 - (iii) Siliguri to the Teesta Bridge, about 29 miles; and
 - (iv) Siliguri to Nuxulbari and Kissenganj, about 70 miles.
- (4) Bengal Duars Railway†—
 - (i) For the 3' 3½" gauge, Bagrakote to Sivoke, 5·78 miles.
 - (ii) For the 2' 6" gauge, Sivoke to Teesta Bridge, 17 miles.

Surveys authorized

451 The following surveys were authorized to be undertaken—

- (i) By the Bengal and North-Western Railway—For a permanent alignment of the Bengal and North-Western Railway main line between the stations of Dighwara and Sonepur
- ii) By the Eastern Bengal State Railway—Reconnaissance survey for a railway line from Khulna to Bagerhat and thence to Barisal.

Other projects.

452. An application from Messrs. H V Low & Co. was entertained for a concession for the construction under the District Board's guarantee of a light railway on the 2' 6" gauge from Krishnagar to Jellinghee, 54 miles of which are in the district of Nadia and 2 miles in the district of Murshidabad. The application from Messrs H. V. Low & Co. for a concession for the construction under the District Board's guarantee of a light railway on the 2' gauge from Koderma to Hazaribagh, distance 41 miles, in the district of Hazaribagh, was rejected by the Government of Bengal, owing to the District Board being considered financially unable to guarantee 4 per cent. interest on the capital cost of the proposed line.

Miscellaneous important matters

453. The Secretary of State's sanction to the construction of a bridge over the Lower Ganges near the Sara was received in October 1908. The site of the bridge, which is for the double line on the 5' 6" gauge, has been fixed 3 miles below Sara. During 1910, preliminary works on the bridge have to a

* Only a portion of the line lies within the Province of Bengal

† This line is partly in the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam

large extent been completed. On the right and left banks, quarters, offices and power-houses have been erected and store depôts formed. Service lines have been constructed. The earthwork of the right and left guide banks and approaches is making good progress. The blockyards have been completed and equipment is nearly ready to start work. Large quantities of stone for pitching have been collected at the quarries, of which 107 lakhs cubic feet have been brought to site and part has been placed in position. A large amount of English stores has been received; including boilers and generators, for the power-house, electrical plant, cement, etc. The floods of 1910 reached a level of 47·85, being only two feet below estimated maximum flood level. The completion of this bridge will link up the 3' 3½" and 5' 6" gauge sections of the Eastern Bengal State Railway.

• Owing to exceptionally heavy floods in the Darbhanga district, the Bengal and North-Western Railway was breached in several places. The causes were investigated by a committee whose recommendations are to receive effect.

454. The Indian Railways Act, IX of 1890, excluding section 135, was extended to—

(i) The Dehri-Rohtas Light Railway.

(ii) The Arrah-Sasaram Light Railway.

The Light Railways in Bengal are being worked successfully and yield a fair return to their shareholders and to the District Boards.

Extension of
the Indian
Railways Act
to lines
sanctioned
under the
Bengal
Tramways
Act

Canals—Irrigation and Navigation.

[Administration Report of Irrigation Works for the year 1910-11 Statistics of British India, Part III—Commercial Services]

455. The transactions of the Irrigation Department for the year 1910-11 are exhibited in the following statement in the field of irrigation and navigation. Works which afford protection from flood or which facilitate drainage are reviewed separately, and are not noticed in this report :—

Capital and
Revenue
accounts.

Capital Account.

HEADS.	Amount of construction estimate.	Expenditure during 1910-11.	Expenditure to end of 1910-11	Balance for expenditure from 1st April 1911.
<i>Protective Irrigation Works.</i>	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Direct charges ..	56,34,653	7,38,617	59,18,832	(—) 2,84,179
Indirect „ ...	1,30,782	21,655	1,52,856	(—) 22,074
Total ...	57,65,435*	7,60,272	60,71,688	(—) 3,06,253
<i>Major Irrigation Works.</i>				
Direct charges ...	6,29,43,828	24,431	6,28,77,094	66,734
Indirect „ . . .	17,69,529	805	17,66,942	2,587
Total . . .	6,47,13,357	25,236	6,46,44,036	69,321
<i>Minor Works and Navigation.</i>				
Direct charges ...	1,67,95,151	4,37,637	1,59,93,744	8,01,407
Indirect „ ...	2,66,011	7,392	2,95,768	(—) 29,757
Total .	1,70,61,162	4,45,029	1,62,89,512	7,71,650

* A second revised estimate for the Tribeni Canal has been submitted to the Government of India for the sanction of the Secretary of State.

Revenue Account.

HEADS.	Receipts	WORKING EXPENSES.			Net revenue.
		Direct.	Indirect.	Total work- ing expenses.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Major Irrigation Works *	25,54,597	5,44,020	1,14,117	15,60,137	9,94,460
<i>Minor Works and Navigation.</i>					
Works for which Capital and Revenue accounts are kept.	4,71,521	4,90,798	15,747	5,06,545	(—) 35,024
Works for which only Revenue accounts are kept.	41,712	1,04,211	8,099	1,12,310	(—) 70,598
Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue accounts are kept	35,418	37,020	...	37,020†	(—) 1,602

* Inclusive of the Dhaka Canal

† Exclusive of Rs. 34,846 spent on the improvement of the navigable channel of the Ganges river.

Classification
of Irrigation
and
Navigation
Works.

456. The classification of the works dealt with in this review is as follows:—

Protective Irrigation Works.—The only works comprised in this class are the Tribeni and Dhaka Canals which were sanctioned in the year 1900-01. The upper half of the Tribeni Canal has been completed and is now available for irrigation; the lower half is under construction. The Dhaka Canal is complete and in operation. They are purely irrigation works. A second revised estimate for the Tribeni Canal, amounting to Rs. 75,27,302, has been submitted to the Government of India for the sanction of the Secretary of State. The upper half of the canal has been opened for irrigation from the year 1911-12, and the receipts from, and the working expenses on, this portion have been provincialised, the interest charges being, however, treated as Imperial. This arrangement is to remain in force till 1912-13, when the whole question will again be considered. The main canal will, it is expected, be completed by June 1912. The revised estimate, amounting to Rs. 6,09,191 for the Dhaka Canal, was sanctioned by the Government of India. The construction estimate of this canal has been closed from 21st March 1908. The schedule of sanctioned works, which were either incomplete or not begun on the 1st April 1908, has been sanctioned by the Government of India. The date for the completion of these works, which was originally fixed at 31st March 1910, has been extended to 31st March 1912.

Major Works.—In these are included the Orissa, Midnapore, Sone and Hijili Tidal Canals. The Hijili Tidal Canal is for navigation only, while the other three canals provide for both irrigation and navigation. The original Capital account of these canals has been closed, and all present capital outlay is charged against head "Minor Works and Navigation." The Revenue account is shown under head "Major Works—Working Expenses"

Minor Works and Navigation—[I] The works for which Capital and Revenue accounts are kept include the Calcutta and Eastern Canals, the Madaripur Bhil Route and the Orissa Coast Canal for navigation and the Saran Canals for irrigation. Under this is also included the Utterbhag Lock now under construction in connection with the Magra Hât Drainage Scheme, which when completed will be for navigation only. [II] The works for which only revenue accounts are kept are the Nadia Rivers and the Gaighatta and Buxi khal, for navigation only. [III] The works for which neither Capital nor Revenue accounts are kept include the Eden Canal, which is used partly for irrigation, and partly to afford a supply of water for drinking and sanitation, and the Madhuban [Teur] Canal for irrigation only. Under

[II] is also included the Magra Hat Drainage Scheme in the 24-Parganas district, which is being carried out under the provisions of the Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act, VIII [B.C.] of 1895.

The transactions of the year for each of the above works are briefly stated in the following summary, which is given for convenience by circles of superintendence:—

ORISSA CIRCLE.

MAJOR IRRIGATION WORKS.

Orissa Canals.

457. The expenditure (direct charges) debited to the Capital account of the Orissa Canals during the year was Rs. 20,603. The total capital outlay for direct charges to the end of the year stands at Rs. 2,61,94,135. Capital account

458. During the year the following works were in progress or completed:— Works in progress or under construction

On the High Level Canal one minor distributary was completed and two were in progress.

On the Kendrapara Canal the extension of one distributary was in progress.

On the Machgong Canal three minor distributaries were completed and three were in progress.

On the Taldanda Canal the extensions of two distributaries were in progress, one of which was nearly completed.

Some progress was made in raising the flood embankment of the Pattamundi Canal, about two-thirds of it being completed.

Some permanent outlets were constructed on the Pattamundi and Gobri Extension Canals.

459. During the year $11\frac{1}{2}$ miles of distributaries were added chiefly on the Machgong Canal. Length of canals.

460. The average rainfall at the 13 recording stations on the Orissa Canals was 68.34 inches, as against an average of 58.80 inches for the last ten years. It was well distributed during the *kharif* season. There were no very high floods in any of the rivers crossed by the Hijili Tidal Canal. The floods in the rivers crossed by the Orissa Coast Canal were moderately high to low. Rainfall and floods.

461. The demand for water-rates which fell due during the year amounted to Rs. 4,14,359, and practically the whole amount was realized before the close of the year. Irrigation.

462. The receipts from the navigation tolls were slightly below those recorded during the previous year. Navigation receipts.

463. The revenue and working expenses (direct and indirect) during the year were Rs. 5,16,059 and Rs. 4,84,948, respectively, the result being a net revenue of Rs. 31,111, as against Rs. 45,883 in the preceding year. The decrease in net revenue is due to a falling off in the irrigated area and to increase in expenditure on maintenance. Financial results.

464. There was a credit of Rs. 836 to the Capital account from the sale of land at Kalinagar. The capital outlay now stands at Rs. 25,50,805 (direct charges). The total receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 55,357 and Rs. 77,736, respectively, as against Rs. 63,742 and Rs. 57,940 in 1909-10. The result was a deficit of Rs. 22,379, as against a net revenue of Rs. 5,802 in the preceding year. The decrease in revenue is due partly to the closure of the canal for silt clearance and for carrying out special repairs to the locks, and partly to its silted-up condition which prevented large boats from plying in the canal. The heavy maintenance charges during 1910-11 were due to special repairs to the locks at Gewankhali, Etamogra and Terapokia, and to silt clearance of the canal. The whole of the canal is now in an efficient state, and it is expected that the cost of maintenance for the next few years will be small. Hijili Tidal Canal

PRODUCTION
AND
DISTRIBUTION.

Orissa Coast
Canal.

MINOR WORKS AND NAVIGATION.

465. There was no outlay chargeable to the Capital account during the year. The total capital outlay (direct charges) to the end of the year amounted to Rs. 43,72,462. Range IVE was closed to traffic from 1st February to 15th June 1910 for silt clearance, and the Panchpara Lock on Range IVA for special repairs from 15th January to 28th February 1911. The Bhogra Lock also remained closed for special repairs up to 30th April 1911. The other ranges of the canal remained open throughout the year. A sum of Rs. 22,280 was spent during the year on silt clearance. The gross receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 27,025 and Rs. 87,389, respectively, as against Rs. 26,129 and Rs. 69,886, respectively, in the preceding year. The increase in working expenses is due to special repairs to some of the locks and to silt clearance of Range IV B of the canal.

SOUTH-WESTERN CIRCLE.

MAJOR IRRIGATION WORKS.

Midnapore Canal.

Capital
account.

466. The outlay during the year of Rs. 1,540 (direct charges) chargeable to Capital was chiefly for constructing permanent outlets in distributaries.

The total capital expenditure (direct charges) now stands at Rs. 83,11,696.

Rainfall and
floods.

467. The total rainfall registered at Midnapore and Panchkura was as follows:—

Station		1910 11.	Average of
		Inches.	ten previous years
Midnapore 44 02	59.70
Panchkura 52 74	56.37

The highest flood in the Cossye river during the year was on the 9th September 1910, when the gauge at Mohunpur read 87.50 against the highest recorded flood level of 94.50 on the 2nd September 1907.

Irrigation.

468. The area irrigated from the canal was 73,940 acres, as against 70,438 acres in the previous year. There was a considerable demand for canal water towards the latter part of the *khari* season owing to insufficient rainfall. Difficulty was experienced in complying with the demand for the leased areas under the Midnapore weir owing to the small supply of water in the Cossye river. The demand of Rs. 1,43,228 for water-rates which became due during the year was practically fully realised before the close of the year. The demand was in excess of that of the previous year, owing to the renewal of lapsed leases at the increased rate of Rs. 2 per acre.

Navigation
receipts

469. Owing to the good rice crop the navigation receipts were better than those of the previous year.

Financial
results.

470. The gross revenue and working expenses (direct and indirect) of the Midnapore Canal amounted to Rs. 2,06,775 and Rs. 1,97,718, respectively, the result being a net revenue of Rs. 9,057 as against a deficit of Rs. 31,175 in the preceding year. This is due to a decrease in establishment charges and to an increase in the area irrigated and in navigation receipts.

MINOR WORKS AND NAVIGATION.

Calcutta and Eastern Canals.

Capital
account.

471. Rupees 40,095 debitable to the Capital account (direct charges) were expended during the year principally in constructing the new Kristapur Canal which was practically completed during the year.

Navigation
receipts

472. The receipts from navigation tolls amounted to Rs. 3,67,620 as compared with Rs. 3,62,111 in the preceding year. The gross receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) amounted to Rs. 3,85,555 and Rs. 4,07,111, respectively, as against Rs. 3,80,758 and Rs. 2,37,443, respectively, in 1909-10, the result being a deficit of Rs. 21,556 as against a net

revenue of Rs 1,43,315 in the preceding year. The falling-off in net revenue is due chiefly to increased expenditure on maintenance and to the silt clearance of the Bhangore khal.

473. Rupees 3,80,490 debitable to capital outlay was expended during the year in deepening by dredging the channel through the Bhil, which work, it is expected, will be completed in 1911-12. Half of this amount is payable by the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The total capital outlay to the end of 1910-11 amounts to Rs 24,35,259, of which Rs 19,43,317 is debited to this Government and the balance to the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) during the year were, respectively, Rs. 58,192 and Rs. 8,757 as against Rs. 45,032 and Rs. 22,093 in the year 1909-10. The increase in receipts is due to the development of traffic. The decrease in working expenses is due to no silt clearing being done at the eastern entrance of the Bhil Channel. The net revenue during 1910-11 was Rs. 49,435, of which Rs. 10,055 represents the share credited to the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The net revenue during 1909-10 was Rs 22,939.

474. The approximate lengths of the channels comprised in the Nadia rivers are as detailed below.—

	Miles.
Fariaeca channel between Ganges and Bhagirathi rivers	25
Bhagirathi river	157½
Bhairab-Jalangi	165½
Mathabhanga	136
Hooghly	32
Total	516

No capital account is kept. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 37,037 and Rs 1,10,883, respectively, as against Rs. 34,402 and Rs. 1,41,940, respectively, in the preceding year. The slight increase in receipts may be attributed to the more favourable condition of the navigable channels and to better crops. The number of boats using these rivers during the year was 17,572 as against 17,213 in the previous year. The increase in the length of the Bhairab-Jalangi by 19½ miles and the decrease in the length of the Mathabhanga by 1 mile, as compared with the previous year, are due to the shifting of the entrances of the rivers.

475. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) for the year were Rs. 4,675 and Rs 1,427, respectively, as against Rs 4,500 and Rs. 400 in the previous year. The collection of toll and fishery rights has been leased out for three years from 1910-11 at Rs 4,900 per annum, as against Rs. 4,500 for the two previous years.

476. The receipts and working expenses were Rs 33,009 and Rs. 22,774, respectively, as against Rs. 25,711 and Rs. 26,673 in the year 1909-10. The increase in receipts is due to a larger area being irrigated during the year, and also to the rate for *kharif* leases for a term of years being raised from 5 annas to 8 annas per bigha. The area irrigated during the year was Rs 23,113 acres, or 4,203 acres in excess of that irrigated in the preceding year. This was due to a good supply of water being available in the canal for the Jujuti head sluice.

SONE CIRCLE.

MAJOR IRRIGATION WORKS.

Sone Canals.

477. The expenditure of Rs. 3,124 (direct charges) debited to the Capital account of the Sone Canals during the year was chiefly for the construction of the Dehora sub distributary from the Mali distributary of the Patna Canal. The total capital outlay (direct charges) up to the end of 1910-11 was Rs. 2,58,20,458.

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AND
DISTRIBUTION**

**Rainfall and
flood.**

478. The average rainfall of the 12 stations in the three divisions was 45.36 as compared with the average of 36.99 inches for the last ten years. The rainfall during the year was reasonable and well distributed, and the outturn of crops in the canal irrigated tracts was good. A flood in August 1910 breached the right bank of the Main Eastern Canal at $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Damage to the canal further down was avoided by the timely opening of the escapes and distributary head sluices.

Irrigation

479. The area irrigated under long-term lease during the year was 375,561 acres, as against 401,257 acres in the previous year. Owing to favourable rainfall in September and October the area irrigated during the *rabi* season was below the normal. To encourage *rabi* irrigation the tail reaches of some of the distributaries are being remodelled. The demand for water-rates which fell due during the year was Rs. 16,71,366, and this was fully realized before the close of the year, which is very creditable to the Revenue Department.

**Navigation
receipts**

480. The navigation receipts during the year were Rs. 20,958, as against Rs. 17,456 in the previous year. The increase is due to the Patna Canal not being closed during the year.

**Financial
results.**

481. The gross receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 17,62,863 and Rs. 7,69,987, respectively, as against Rs. 18,87,279 and Rs. 7,59,096 in the preceding year. The falling off in gross receipts is chiefly under water-rates, and is mainly due to a smaller area being irrigated during the hot weather of 1910.

**Closure of
canals.**

482. During the year under review the Main Western Canal from the Buxar Canal to the end was closed to navigation and irrigation from the 21st April to 15th June 1910 for silt clearance. The Buxar Canal was closed to irrigation and navigation from the 1st to 8th May 1910 for silt clearance. The Arrah Canal was closed from the 1st to 21st May 1910 for silt clearance and examination of locks. It had again to be closed from the 1st to 13th June owing to the small supply of water in the river Sone.

GANDAK CIRCLE.

PROTECTIVE IRRIGATION WORKS.

**Tribeni and
Dhaka Canals.**

483. The expenditure (direct charges) on the Tribeni Canal was Rs. 7,24,260 and on the Dhaka Canal Rs. 14,357. The progress made with the works up to 31st March 1911 was as follows.—

TRIBENI CANAL.

The canal with its masonry works up to the 37th mile was completed. Some of the masonry works were damaged by the abnormal floods of 1910, and the special repairs thus rendered necessary were nearly completed when the year closed. The excavation of the canal from 37th to 62nd mile was completed, except for short lengths near some masonry works and where nalas and pynes, etc., cross the alignment. All masonry works in this length, except the terminal aqueduct and a few minor drainage works, were approaching completion when the year closed. The training works in the Gandak river at the head of the canal recommended by the Inspector-General of Irrigation with a view to obtain an assured supply of water in the canal were taken up and practically completed during the year.

DISTRIBUTARIES.

Fourteen distributaries west of the 34th mile of the canal have been completed, and work on the remaining two was well advanced. East of the 34th mile surveys and estimates for seven distributaries have been completed, and surveys for five more were in progress. The canal up to the 33rd mile was opened for irrigation on the 1st June 1910 and a small amount of irrigation was carried out. Owing to the abnormal rainfall further irrigation was unnecessary, and it was subsequently made impossible by the heavy floods causing damage to the canal.

. DHAKA CANAL.

The construction estimate of the Dhaka Canal project was closed on 31st March 1908. With the exception of some village channels and a few minor works, all the works provided in the project are now complete. The gross receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) of the canal were Rs. 13,543 and Rs. 29,748; respectively, as against Rs. 13,544 and Rs. 38,923 in the preceding year, the result being a deficit of Rs. 16,205, as against a deficit of Rs. 25,379 in the preceding year. The working expenses include an adjustment of Rs. 11,789 on account of establishment charges which was debited to this project.

. MINOR WORKS AND NAVIGATION.

484. Some irrigation without departmental control was permitted from those canals. The canals were opened and water supplied at the request of the Manager of the Hathwa Raj and of an indigo concern who paid for the cost of making the necessary dams, etc.

WORKS FOR WHICH NEITHER CAPITAL NOR REVENUE ACCOUNTS ARE KEPT.

485. The only work of this class is the Teur (Madhuban) Canal which is 6.25 miles in length with one distributary (Lakhowara) 6.30 miles long. The canal was maintained in good order at a total cost of Rs. 14,246 as against Rs. 8,800 last year. The increase is chiefly due to raising the left bank of the canal by 3 feet above high flood level in the 5th and 6th miles. The total area irrigated during the year, inclusive of the Zirat lands of the Madhuban Babu, which are irrigated free of charge, was 1,298 acres, as against 1,979 acres in the preceding year. Owing to the satisfactory rainfall during the year there was a very small demand for canal water.

Embankments and Drainage.

[The Embankment and Drainage Reports for the year 1910-11.]

486. The expenditure incurred on works and repairs (exclusive of book charges for establishment and tools and plant) during the year amounted to Rs. 8,61,080 as against an average of Rs. 9,16,256 for the four previous years.

487. The total length of embankments of all classes maintained by Government in the Province was 2,161 miles 1,443 feet, protecting an area of 8,608,700 acres. There was an increase of 5 miles 465 feet in the length of the Orissa embankments due to the construction of retired lines and to mistakes in previous measurements. The Gupta bund in the Monghyr district (length 19 miles 3,015 feet) was taken over for maintenance by Government as a public embankment by the Superintending Engineer, Gandak Circle, on the 30th November 1909. The question of abandoning the Turki Embankment in the Muzaffarpur district was under consideration. There were no changes in the South-Western and Northern Circles. These embankments are generally effective as against ordinary high floods, but in the South-Western and Orissa Circles a few are liable to be overtopped during exceptionally high floods.

488. There were no high floods in any of the rivers in the South-Western Circle, and little or no damage was done to the embankments. In the Orissa Circle the floods in the Mahanadi and its branches were rather higher than usual, but in the other rivers only slightly above the average. No serious damage was done to any of the embankments. A bad slip occurred

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in the right bank of the Taldanda Canal in the 4th and 5th miles, but by taking immediate action the bank was saved. In the Gandak Circle the floods were higher than usual in all the rivers, causing some damage to the embankments. In the Northern Circle there was a high flood in the Panar river during July 1910, but no damage resulted.

Breaches.

489. In the South-Western Circle a breach occurred in the 6th mile of the Cossye Bifurcation Right Embankment No 2. There were no other breaches in any of the Schedule D or Takavi Embankments in that Circle. In the Orissa and Gandak Circles there were 11 and 3 breaches respectively, but none in the Northern Circle.

**Surveys and
investigations.**

490 In the Orissa Circle longitudinal sections of the Kuakhari right and left embankments, Daya left embankment, and Kalinagar Hasia, Goomgarh and Jellamutha Schedule D embankments were taken during the year. In the South-Western Circle surveys were made and gauges fixed in connection with the drainage scheme of the Sabang and Moyna parganas. A survey was made of the tract of country lying west of Kola and Daman with a view to providing a sluice at Kola for drainage and irrigation. The survey of all the Schedule D embankments in the Cossye Division was still in progress, also the surveys for the drainage of the Hara basin. In the Gandak Circle an investigation was made in connection with the scheme for improving the water supply in the Bya nala and for draining the surplus flood water from the Samuthi and Bya rivers through a proposed sluice in the 3rd mile of the Tuhut embankment.

Original works

491 The outlay on original works during the year was Rs. 93,617. It included works in connection with raising the crest of the Kushbhadia right and left embankments and remodelling the spurs and groynes on the left bank of the Katjuri at Bogla in the Orissa Circle. The raising of the crest of the sea embankment No. 7B in the Balasore Division was about two-thirds completed. Six embankment sluices were completed during the year, and seventeen others were in progress. In the South-Western Circle the reconstruction of the Inspection bungalow at Ghatal, which collapsed during the floods of 1909-10, was in progress during the year. The construction of the Public Works Department subdivisional office and quarters at Diamond Harbour was also in progress. No original works were done during the year in the Gandak and Northern Circles.

**Ordinary
repairs**

Retired lines

492. The expenditure during the year was Rs. 5,13,170, as against Rs. 3,98,923 in the year 1909-10. The excess was chiefly due to the construction of retired lines. During the year the amount spent on retired lines was Rs. 1,45,188, as against an average of Rs. 64,856 for the previous four years. This excess is chiefly due to heavy expenditure in the South-Western and Gandak Circles. No retired lines were constructed in the Northern Circle.

**Works under-
taken under the
provisions of
the Bengal
Drainage Act
VI of 1880.**

**Works under-
taken under
the provisions
of the Bengal
Sanitary
Drainage Act
VIII of 1895**

493. The Dankuni, Howrah, Rajapur and Burrajolla and Drainage Works, in charge of the Executive Engineer, Northern Drainage and Embankment Division, were maintained in good order during the year at a cost of Rs. 18,882, as compared with an average of Rs. 16,064 for the five preceding years.

494 The only work which has as yet been carried on under this Act is the Magra Hât Drainage Scheme in the 24-Parganas district, the object being to drain the swamps in an area of 290 square miles around Magra Hât within the embankments of the 24-Parganas. This work is estimated to cost Rs. 21,20,966, and the expenditure up to date amounts to Rs. 18,40,050, of which Rs. 1,65,545 were incurred during the year. The work is nearly completed.

**Drainage
works carried
out under the
provisions of
the Bengal
Embankment
Act II of 1882.**

495 In the Orissa Circle some minor works were in progress in connection with the Aigowal Drainage Project, which had been practically completed during the previous year. In the South-Western Circle a sluice in the Government Embankment at Chitraganj under the Budge-Budge Municipality was constructed at a total cost of Rs. 8,283. The work of extension of the Panchannogram embankment was in progress during the year, nearly two thirds of the earthwork being done. Work in connection with the three-vented sluice at Alumpur in the 15th mile of the Hooghly Left Embankment was taken in hand. A large number of sluices in the Schedule D

embankments are maintained under the provisions of this Act at the cost of the estates benefited.

496. Rupees 33,599 was spent during the year on the main drain of the proposed Bagjolla Drainage Scheme, which is being constructed for the efficient drainage of certain municipalities in the 24-Parganas district near Calcutta. The construction of a masonry sluice and a retined line of embankment for the drainage of the Government Estate Tona, in the district of the 24-Parganas, was commenced during the year.

497. The Bullec Bhil drainage works in the 24-Parganas district, the Balliaghyc main and branch drains and the 22 Khas Tahsil khals in the Midnapore district were maintained by this Department.

Drainage works carried out at the cost of Government, but not under the provisions of any Act.

Maintenance and repairs.

CHAPTER V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE

Imperial Revenue and Finance.

Imperial Receipts.

498. The following statement shows the Imperial receipts in 1910-11, as compared with those of 1909-10 —

Major heads	1909-10	1910-11	Increase	Decrease
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I—Land Revenue	73,92,714	70,85,884		3,06,830
II—Opium	6,90,53,551	10,95,51,632	4,04,98,081	
III—Salt	1,14,59,851	1,02,30,178		12,29,673
IV—Stamps	78,08,694	79,90,255	1,21,561	
V—Excise	83,96,279	89,87,093	5,90,814	
VII—Customs	2,29,22,808	2,74,81,243	45,58,435	
VIII—Assessed Taxes	28,54,776	27,44,638		1,10,138
IX—Forest	5,40,320	5,83,722	43,402	
XI—Tributes	52,250	52,250		
XII—Interest	11,96,743	12,30,024	33,281	
XXII—Receipts in aid of superannuations, etc	1,67,733	1,86,803	19,070	
XXIII—Stationery and Printing	2,221	3,448	1,227	
XXV—Miscellaneous	41,371	58,899	17,528	
XXXI—Civil Works	55,885	1,04,236	48,551	
Total	13,19,44,996	17,62,30,305	4,59,31,950	16,46,641

The variations shown in the above table were mainly due to the following causes — *Land Revenue*.—The decrease was due, as in the preceding year, to special assignments made to Provincial revenues in aid of Education and Sanitation, *Opium*.—Higher prices were obtained at the sales, *Salt*.—There was a more general adoption of the credit system for repayment of duty; *Stamps*.—The duty on *hundis* and share transfers under Act VI of 1910 was enhanced, the realisations on probates and letters of administration in Calcutta also increased, *Excise*.—There was a larger consumption of liquor owing to agricultural prosperity and the disappearance of the prejudice against liquor distilled under the contract system; *Customs*.—The increase was due to an increase of the duty on chemicals, tobacco and silver under the new Tariff Act, and to larger imports of sugar and manufactured articles, *Assessed Taxes*.—The decrease was due to a general depression of trade; *Forest*.—Better sale results were obtained in almost all the divisions, especially in the Sunderbans and Singhbhum, *Interest*.—Arrears of interest on loans to the Calcutta Port Trust were collected, *Superannuation*.—Larger receipts were obtained from the Orphananj market at Kidderpote; *Miscellaneous*.—Larger premia on supply bills in Bihar and enhanced recoveries on account of the percentage chargeable on European stores supplied to Provincial and Local Funds account for the increase, *Civil Works*.—Larger receipts than had been anticipated were obtained on account of the sale of Nos. 4 and 5, Church Lane, Calcutta, and of a two-storied structure in the Telegraph store-yard at Dullunda.

499. The following statement shows the Imperial expenditure in 1910-11, as compared with that of 1909-10.—

Major heads	1909-10	1910-11	Increase	Decrease
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
1 Refunds and Drawbacks	6,76,679	6,91,141	14,462	.
2 Assignments and Compensations	1,20,491	1,21,653	1,562	.
3 Land Revenue	11,49,480	11,68,460		31,030
4 Opium	1,65,91,224	1,86,49,164	20,57,940	.
5 Salt	3,38,486	2,76,164		62,322
6 Stamps	2,15,982	2,13,782	..	2,200
7 Excise	4,35,864	4,41,744	6,080	
9 Customs	11,06,109	11,96,122	90,013	
10 Assessed Taxes	77,857	78,602	145	.
11 Forest	2,95,549	3,21,618	26,069	..
14 Interest on other obligations	30,579	17,199	..	13,380
18 General Administration	3,18,622	3,40,059	21,437	..
23 Ecclesiastical	2,24,161	2,09,410		14,751
25 Political	8,482	9,120	638
26 Scientific and other Minor Departments	33,315	95,372	62,057	
27 Territorial and Political Pensions	8,89,046	8,49,031	..	40,015
28 Civil Furlough	518	.	..	518
29 Superannuation	40,563	58,093	17,530	
32 Miscellaneous	17,537	18,111	174	.
33 Famine Relief	5,26,616		5,26,616
35 Protective Irrigation Works	9,97,802	7,88,706		2,09,096
45 Civil Works	10,93,896	17,35,768	6,41,872	
Total	2,52,38,658	2,72,78,709	29,39,979	8,99,928

The principal fluctuations are explained as follows—*Refunds and Drawbacks*.—The increase was due to increased refunds of custom duties on arms, cotton goods and liquors, and to drawbacks on the re-export of sugar and jewellery, *Land Revenue*.—Expenditure on the traverse survey and Bengal Drawing office was below that estimated, *Opium*.—Larger payments were made to cultivators owing to improved outturn, *Salt*.—The transfer of the charges on account of the preventive establishments in the districts of Chittagong and Noakhali to the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam accounts for the decrease; *Customs*.—The appraising and preventive establishments of the Calcutta Custom House were reorganised, *Forest*.—Larger expenditure was incurred on communications and buildings, *Interest*.—The decrease was due to non-adjustment of the interest on the General Provident Fund during the year; *General Administration*.—Reorganisation of the establishment of the office of the Accountant-General, Bengal, accounts for the increase, *Ecclesiastical*.—Smaller expenditure was incurred on allowances owing to changes in the personnel; *Scientific and other Minor Departments*.—Charges were borne in connection with the Census operations; *Territorial and Political Pensions*.—Lapses in the Nizamut family and payment of the arrear pension of the Khurda Raja in 1909-10 account for the decrease; *Superannuation*.—Allowances were paid to the wards of the Kidderpore Military Orphanage subsequent to its closure; *Famine Relief*.—There was a cessation

of relief operations; *Protective Irrigation Works*.—Smaller expenditure was incurred on the Tribeni Canals; *Civil Works*.—Larger expenditure was incurred on the buildings of the Telegraph, Stamps and Stationery, and Commerce and Industry Departments.

Land Revenue.

[See Chapter II of this Report.]

Canal Revenue.

[See Chapter IV of this Report—Canals.]

Sources of Revenue other than Land.

CUSTOMS

[Customs Administration Report, 1910-11, also called the Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1910-11 Statistics of British India, Part IV(b)—Finance and Revenue.]

Revenue from Customs

500 The gross revenue from Customs (inclusive of 4.90 lakhs paid into district treasuries on account of salt imported at Calcutta) was Rs. 3,75,21,000 against Rs. 3,41,89,000 in the previous year. Refunds amounted to Rs. 5,52,000 against Rs. 5,34,000, so that the net revenue amounted to Rs. 3,69,69,000, representing an increase of 10 per cent. on last year's figures.

With the exception of salt and a small reduction under metals, all articles showed a large increase in consequence of the general expansion of the import trade, but over Rs. 28 lakhs of the additional revenue was due to the four articles affected by the Indian Tariff Amendment Act, VIII of 1910, viz, liquors, petroleum, silver and tobacco.

The gross import duties amounted to Rs. 356.66 lakhs. Of this amount salt (including the inland collections) yielded 105.25 lakhs. The collections on account of other articles rose from Rs. 211.21 lakhs to Rs. 251.41 lakhs. This increase was chiefly due to large receipts in the case of silver (14.55), sugar (3.59) and tobacco (9.24).

The export duty collections rose from Rs. 13.23 lakhs to Rs. 18.55 lakhs. As a result of excellent crops the export duty on rice expanded by 40 per cent. Although the increase in the case of refunds was insignificant, the amount paid by way of drawback was doubled owing to re-exports of sugar and jewellery. Duty collections on salt at inland bonded warehouses were higher by 7 per cent.

Net income

501. The net income of the Calcutta Custom House amounted to Rs. 3,57,49,104, as against Rs. 3,25,43,240 in 1909-10, representing an increase of nearly 9.85 per cent. The net income of the subordinate ports, Cuttack, Puri and Balasore, was Rs. 1,85,528, as against Rs. 1,73,962 in the previous year.

Cases under the Sea Customs Act

502. The number of cases of infringement of the Sea Customs Act were 657 against 619 in the preceding year. Of these, 417 cases related to undervaluations and other misdeclarations, involving respectively the realization of extra duty amounting to Rs. 15,390 and the imposition of penalties amounting to Rs. 6,495. In ten cases of undervaluation the goods were taken over on behalf of Government and disposed of at a profit. A consignment of silk handkerchiefs of Japanese manufacture bearing the impression of a Government currency note of Rs. 10 was confiscated.

An unusually large number of cases of smuggling of opium for Burma were detected, while two large seizures of cocaine, consisting of 149 and 114 ounces, respectively, were made on board vessels from China.

Merchandise Marks Act

503. There were 545 cases of infringement under the Act, as against 680 in the previous year. Of these, 438 related to offences of false trade descriptions.

The penalties realized during the year amounted to Rs. 9,620, as against Rs. 11,152 in the previous year.

504. During the year sanction was accorded to the permanent entertainment of the Executive Audit Department, and the Accounts Audit Branch, which previously formed part of the establishment of the Board of Revenue, was transferred to the control of the Collector of Customs.

SALT.

[Salt Administration Report, 1910-11 Statistics of British India, Part IV (b)—Finance and Revenue]

505. The salt credit system has gained in popularity, and increased advantage was taken of it by the salt merchants in Calcutta during the year under review. Large numbers of securities were in consequence deposited with the Collector of Customs, who, not considering it prudent to leave this valuable property permanently in the Custom House safe in the custody of the cashier, proposed to follow the practice in Madras and deposit the securities for safe custody in the Bank of Bengal. This proposal was approved by Government. Administration

506. The imports show an increase of a little over two lakhs of maunds, as compared with the previous year. This small increase calls for no remarks. Imports.
In comparison with the previous year, the import of Spanish salt fell off considerably. The extension of the salt bonding arrangements at Salkea was under consideration during the year.

507. The quantity of salt which passed into consumption in the province during the year under review is estimated at 8,143,100 maunds, as against 8,172,823 maunds in the previous year. There was a slight increase of two pies in the average wholesale price per maund of salt, and the average retail price for the province was $9\frac{1}{2}$ pies a seer, the same as in the previous year. Exclusive of duty, the average wholesale price of Liverpool salt per 100 maunds as sold from the ship's side in Calcutta rose from Rs. 37-11-3 25 in 1909-10 to Rs. 45-11-11. The rise in price is attributed generally to low stocks and high freight. Consumption and prices

508. There was a large decrease in the number of seizures of illicit salt and in the number of prosecutions under the Salt Law (Act VII of 1882) during the year, as compared with the previous year. No cases were reported in Balasore, Midnapore, Howrah and Khulna, and no cases were sent up under section 5 of Act VII (B.C.) of 1864. The decrease in the 24-Parganas is attributed to the wide distribution of shops for the sale of licit salt, systematic patrol and better condition of the people. The decrease in Orissa is ascribed to the improved condition of the people in consequence of good harvests. Prosecutions

509. The financial results of the year, as compared with those of 1909-10, show a decrease of over $12\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs, or 10.7 per cent. in receipts, and of Rs. 66,514, or 16.6 per cent. in expenditure, the net revenue being less than that of the previous year by 10.5 per cent. Financial results

510. The quantity of salt entered in the manufacture or refinement of saltpetre during the year and removed on payment of duty from the refineries in Bihar and in Calcutta was 21,740 maunds (exclusive of 455 maunds of *sitta*), as against 21,510 maunds (exclusive of 121 maunds of *sitta*) in 1909-10. Trade in saltpetre salt.

EXCISE

[Report on the Administration of the Excise Department, Bengal, for 1910-11 Statistics of British India, Part IV (b)—Finance and Revenue]

511. The most important administrative changes which took place during the year were—the extension of the contract system of supplying spirits to the districts of the Patna and Tirhut divisions (excepting certain parts of Shahabad, Champaran and Muzaffarpur); the closure of outstills in the Khondmals subdivision of the district of Angul in deference to the wishes of the Khonds who took a vow to abstain from drinking liquor; the taxation of *pachwai* for the first time in the district of Sambalpur, and the withdrawal from the districts of the 24-Parganas, Nadia, Jessore and Khulna of the privilege of home-brewing of *pachwai* under license; the grant to respectable chemists and druggists doing wholesale business in the manufacture of Administrative changes

medicines, chemicals or drugs of the privilege of obtaining locally manufactured rectified spirit at the reduced rate of duty of Rs. 7-13 per L. P. gallon for their business, the imposition of excise restrictions on the manufacture of perfumes and toilet preparations from or with duty-paid plain foreign spirit, the introduction of the new method of denaturation of spirits with light caoutchoucine and mineral pyridine bases; the introduction of Rajshahi *ganja*, exclusively, into the district of Sambalpur at a duty of Rs. 7 per seer; and the raising of the rate of duty on country spirit in the towns of Cuttack, Balasore, Puri, Monghyr and Jamalpur, and in the urban tracts of the Shahabad district with effect from the 1st April 1910.

Local Advisory
Committees.

512. Local committees were appointed in 30 mufassal towns, with a population of 20,000 or upwards, to advise the Collectors as to the number and sites of liquor shops to be licensed for the current year. Except in a few instances, there was a preponderance of the non-official element in these committees. Out of 42 cases in which the local committees recommended the withdrawal or removal of shops, in 29 cases the recommendations were at once accepted, and in six the recommendations were noted for action as soon as possible. In the remaining seven cases the committees' recommendations were not accepted, and in each of these cases the reasons put forward for withdrawal or removal were fully considered by the Collector of the district, the Divisional Commissioner and the Commissioner of Excise before final rejection. In Calcutta the sites of shops had been considered by a committee which sat in 1909-10 in connection with the triennial settlements which had been made with effect from the 1st April 1910. No further committee was therefore appointed for the current year. During the year it was considered whether, in view of the difficulties encountered by license-holders in obtaining suitable sites for liquor shops and the desirability of improving structural conditions and sanitary surroundings of such shops generally, it would be advisable for Government to acquire sites or to lease suitable premises for a term of years, disposing of the right to use them along with the vend license. After consulting Local Governments the Government of India have decided that, while the general adoption of a policy of acquiring sites or premises on behalf of the State is both unnecessary and inexpedient, the local authorities should, in exceptional cases, and subject to the sanction of the Local Government or other superior controlling authority, be allowed discretion in the matter of acquiring sites or premises for shops by purchase or lease as local conditions may require.

Revenue

513. In round figures the total receipts of the year amounted to 180 lakhs of rupees, as against 168 lakhs in the preceding year, showing an increase of 12 lakhs. The receipts were made up of 88 lakhs in duty and 92 lakhs in license-fees, as against 76 lakhs and 92 lakhs, respectively, in the previous year. Country spirit, *ganja* and opium account for 50·5 per cent., and 18·2 per cent. and 14·8 per cent. of the total revenue of the year, being (except in the case of *ganja*) very slightly less than the percentages in the preceding year. The receipts under country spirit show an increase of 4½ lakhs of rupees, or 4·9 per cent., under *ganja* 3 lakhs, or 10·4 per cent., and under opium, more than three-quarters of a lakh, or 3·2 per cent. The incidence of taxation per proof gallon of spirit under the contract and central distillery systems taken together was Rs. 4·9 against Rs. 5·6 in the previous year, and the average annual fee for each outstill was Rs. 2,410 against Rs. 2,048 in the preceding year. The incidence of the excise revenue was 5 annas 5 pies per head of the population against 4 annas 11 pies in the preceding year. After making due allowances for difference in the population on which the calculations are based, the result is a real increase in the taxation per head.

Country spirit.

514. The total revenue from country spirit amounted to Rs. 90,71,981 as compared with Rs. 86,45,609 in 1909-10. The total consumption of contract and distillery spirits was 1,532,584 gallons L. P., as compared with 1,095,089 gallons in 1909-10, showing an increase of 437,495 gallons L. P. About 80 per cent. of this increase is nominal, being due to the conversion of outstills into distillery shops in the districts of the Patna and Tirhut divisions (except Champaran).

The number of licenses for the sale of country spirit (contract, distillery and outstill) was 2,944 against 2,942 in the previous year. Thirty-nine new

shops were opened and 37 abolished to meet local conditions and requirements, the net increase being two only.

515. In order to meet the legitimate demand of the people for weak Minimum prices. cheap liquor, spirit of 70° U. P. was introduced in the distillery area of the district of Sambalpur with effect from the beginning of the current year, and a minimum price of 3 annas per bottle was fixed for it in four town shops of the district. Towards the close of the year minimum prices for the sale of country spirit were also fixed in Chapra town shops at annas 1½, annas 3, annas 6, and annas 9 per bottle for liquor of the strength of 85° U. P., 70° U. P., 50° U. P. and 30° U. P., respectively. This was done with the object of stopping unhealthy rivalry amongst certain shop-keepers who had been endeavouring to push consumption by underselling each other.

516. In accordance with the recommendation of the Indian Excise Com- Tari. mittee, considerable reductions have been made in the number of *tari* shops in the Bihar districts during the last five years, but the consequent increased competition for the remaining shops has resulted in a substantial increase of Rs. 2,30,997 in revenue. Sufficient progress in this direction, however, have not yet been made in the districts of Patna and Darbhanga. The total *tari* revenue in this province rose from Rs. 12,60,095 to Rs. 14,32,073, or by Rs. 1,71,978. The system of remittances of *tari* fees by money-order in the Bihar districts is said to be working on the whole satisfactorily.

517. The total revenues from *pachwai* increased during the year by about Pachwai. 1½ lakhs of rupees. The increase was due to keener competition in certain districts and to the cheaper price of rice. The prohibition against the receipt by *pachwai* vendors of grain in barter for *pachwai*, which has been in force in the districts of the Sonthal Parganas and Birbhum, was extended during the year to the districts of Bankura and Midnapore.

518. The enhancement of the duty on imported liquors from the 25th Foreign liquor. February 1910 seems to have affected to some extent the imports of some of the more expensive brands of spirits (*e.g.*, whisky and rum) and wines. But its effect is more clearly visible in the case of the cheaper spirits, while the restrictions imposed on compounding, blending and bottling and the fixing of minimum strengths have had the desired effect of checking the importation of plain and rectified spirits for the local manufacture of cheap spurious foreign liquor. The total number of licenses issued for the sale of foreign liquor was 744, as against 592 in the previous year. The increase was chiefly due to the issue of 138 bar licenses for theatres and other places of amusements, of which 136 were issued in Calcutta. Total receipts from license-tees amounted to Rs. 3,14,431 against Rs. 3,19,987 in 1909-10.

519. There was a net increase of 438 maunds in the quantity of *ganja* Ganja. consumed in the province during the year, this was shared by all but four districts. Nearly half the increase took place in the districts of the Patna and Tirhut divisions, where, owing to the introduction of the Central Distillery System, there was a decrease in the popularity of liquor. This result is highly undesirable, and the situation is being carefully watched. Special efforts taken to suppress the smuggling of *ganja* from the Garhjat Mahals into Puri appear to have been attended with some success.

520. The total quantity of *bhang* consumed in the province during the Sidhi or bhang. year increased by 154 maunds. This, however, is no more than a reaction from a heavy decrease of 289 maunds which occurred in the previous year owing to the enhancement of the duty on *bhang* with effect from 1st April 1909 and to the high wholesale price of the drug. During the past year a material reduction in the wholesale price took place leading to increased consumption.

521. The consumption of opium in the province as a whole and in Opium. Calcutta remained practically unchanged during the year. The restriction imposed with effect from the 1st April 1909 on the issues of opium to shops in Calcutta and the adjoining districts of the 24 Parganas, Howrah and Hooghly, with a view to checking smuggling into Burma, appears to have met with considerable success. The limited quantities of opium issued from the treasuries seem to have left little margin for sale to smugglers, who have apparently been forced to shift their centres of operation to more distant up-country places. There was a large increase in the seizures in Calcutta of

REVENUE AND
FINANCE.

illicit opium smuggled in this way. The habit of opium-smoking does not appear to be on the increase.

Cocaine,
novocaine, etc

522. It is to be regretted that, in spite of numerous prosecutions and the punishments inflicted, the illicit trade in cocaine is still on the increase; but it is extremely difficult to detect and suppress it. The question has been raised whether, in the near future, it will not be necessary to undertake special legislation for its control. The danger which may arise from the use of this pernicious intoxicant is fully recognised by Government, but before recourse is had to special legislation, every possible endeavour will be made to enforce the stringent restrictions provided for in the existing laws and rules. Importation of cocaine and of all drugs synthetic to it by means of the post has been prohibited, and only a few firms of repute are authorised to import them by other means. The drugs can be sold even for *bond fide* medicinal purposes only by a few approved chemists and druggists, who have received licenses for the purpose, and then only on prescriptions of qualified medical practitioners. The punishment provided in the *Excise Act*, V of 1909, for unlawful import, export, transport, possession or sale of any of these drugs is imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months, or fine which may extend to Rs. 1,000, or both. But it is a matter of regret that Magistrates do not yet realise the futility of lenient sentences in offences of this kind, which, while difficult to detect, bring enormous profits to the offenders. Energy and ability on the part of the preventive staff, both Excise and Customs, should result in the detection of such offences, while deterrent sentences imposed by the Courts should lead to a diminution in the illicit trade.

Excise offences

523. A very striking increase is to be observed in the number of convictions for illicit distillation, which rose during the year from 690 to 1,264. The chief general cause is probably the simplified procedure introduced by Act V of 1909 and the greater powers therein conferred on Excise officials. Convictions for this offence were most numerous in the Sonthal Parganas, Manbhum and Midnapore. Cheap *mahua* and the high price of liquor of the strength (50° U. P.) most popular among the Sonthals are assigned as the cause of the increase in the first-named district, while increase in preventive activity, due largely to judicious distribution of rewards, is said to have contributed to the results in Manbhum and Midnapore. As an experimental measure, the maximum retail price of 50° U. P. liquor in the Sonthal Parganas has been reduced from annas eight to annas six per bottle with effect from the 1st August 1911.

STAMPS

[Stamp Administration Report for the three years ending 31st March 1911. Statistics of British India, Part IV(b)—Finance and Revenue.]

Revenue.

524. The revenue collected under the Stamp and Court-fees Act amounted to Rs. 1,58,60,483,* as against Rs. 1,56,17,389* in the preceding year, showing an increase of 1.5 per cent. The principal increase was in judicial stamps.

Judicial
stamps.

525. The sale-proceeds of court-fee stamps (excluding stamps for copies) increased steadily from Rs. 1,00,51,023 in 1908-09 to Rs. 1,03,51,335 in 1909-10, and Rs. 1,05,09,357 in 1910-11, showing a progressive rise of 2.9 and 4.5 per cent. during the last two years. The increase is mainly attributed to larger resort to civil courts, to the payment of a larger amount of duty in probate and administration cases in Calcutta, and to the gradual development of survey and settlement operations. The enquiries held by Revenue officers under section 19H (3) of the Court-fees Act, VII of 1870, as amended by Act XI of 1899, have led to more careful valuations by applicants for the grant of probates and letters of administration. The receipts from the sale of stamps for copies increased from Rs. 5,51,112 in 1908-09 to Rs. 5,82,480 in 1909-10 and fell to Rs. 5,76,569 in 1910-11. But the receipts from the sale of plain paper rose steadily from Rs. 1,90,667 in 1908-09 to Rs. 2,05,821 in 1909-10 and Rs. 2,11,281 in the following year. The miscellaneous receipts declined from Rs. 648 in 1908-09 to Rs. 350 in 1909-10 and Rs. 258 in 1910-11. It may be mentioned that while the incidence of income tax is only 1 anna 5 pies per head of the population of this province, that of court-fee stamps amounts to 3 annas 5 pies per head.

* Inclusive of Rs. 4,70,000 on account of sale-proceeds of united stamps credited to non-postal revenue.

526. The revenue derived from the sale of non-judicial stamps showed during 1910-11 a decrease of Rs. 2,43,238, or 5.6 per cent., in comparison with 1908-09, but an increase of Rs. 85,438, or 2.1 per cent., in comparison with 1909-10. This increase was shared by all classes of stamps except impressed stamps, notarial stamps, stamps for legal practitioners' licenses and "miscellaneous receipts." Receipts from the sale of impressed stamps (the most important item among non-judicial stamps) showed a progressive decrease during the past three years. The revenue, which amounted to Rs. 25,49,818 during 1908-09, declined to Rs. 23,99,721 in 1909-10 and to Rs. 22,27,694 in 1910-11. The decrease is principally due to the improvement in agricultural conditions owing to the high prices obtained for produce and the more favourable climatic conditions prevailing during the triennium. In Chota Nagpur the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act (Bengal Act VI of 1908), which has considerably curtailed the power of the raiyat to mortgage or alienate his holding, has had the effect of reducing the number of instruments relating to land. The revenue derived from the sale of stamps for *hundis* or bills of exchange rose steadily during the past three years. The receipts during 1910-11 were Rs. 1,64,975, and showed an increase of Rs. 48,760 as compared with those of 1909-10 and of Rs. 50,588 over those of 1908-09. The largest increase occurred in Calcutta, and is attributed to the raising of duty payable under Article 13 (b) of the amended Act VI of 1910. Receipts from the sale of impressed labels, which are used only in Calcutta, showed in 1910-11 an increase of Rs. 99,308, or 10.2 per cent. as compared with those of 1910-10, but when compared with the receipts of 1908-09, a decrease of Rs. 48,682, or 4.3 per cent., is observed. The increase in 1910-11 is attributed to the growing popularity of this class of stamps with the mercantile community of Calcutta.

527. The total number of vendors engaged in the sale of judicial and non-judicial stamps during the year 1910-11 was 2,817, showing a decrease, as compared with the previous two years, of 182 and 80 persons, respectively. The decrease is attributed mainly to the abolition of one-anna receipt stamps, the sale of which constituted a profitable source of income, and the discontinuance of discount on postage stamps, which led to the closure of the stalls of vendors who dealt chiefly in such stamps. The Board having commented on the apparently excessive number of vendors in the Midnapore district, an enquiry was made in 1910-11, and the number was reduced by 41. Sale of stamps.

The expenditure on discount allowed to stamp vendors shows a progressive decline from Rs. 2,08,746 in 1908-09 to Rs. 2,04,543 in 1909-10 and Rs. 2,02,430 in 1910-11. This is due to the decrease in respect of non-judicial stamps which occurred in all the divisions except the Presidency. In respect of judicial stamps and plain paper a progressive increase is, however, observed. The average discount per vendor during the triennium under report was Rs. 70, as against Rs. 67 in the preceding period. There were few complaints of difficulty or inconvenience in procuring stamps, and the sales were on the whole properly conducted by licensed vendors.

528. The total number of cases in which deficient duty and penalty were levied, dealt with by the civil courts during the last year of the triennium, was 2,560, in comparison with 2,512 in 1909-10 and 2,352 in 1908-09. There was a decrease of Rs. 1,339 in the duty and penalty realised by the civil courts in comparison with the realizations of the preceding year, and an increase of Rs. 693 in comparison with those of 1908-09. The increase in the number of cases may be attributed to more careful examination of documents by the courts. There was a decrease of 103 in the number of cases decided and of Rs. 6,084 in the duty and penalty realized by revenue officers as compared with the figures of the preceding year, and a decrease of 428 in the number of cases decided and of Rs. 28,087 in the duty and penalty realized in comparison with 1908-09. The decrease is attributed to a better acquaintance on the part of the public with the law and rules. Deficient duty

529. The number of cases instituted for the infringement of the provisions of the Stamp Act was 1,640, in which 1,655 persons were brought to trial, as against 1,996 cases and 1,991 persons in the preceding year, and 2,186 cases and 2,195 persons in the year 1908-09. The fines imposed amounted to Rs. 5,598, as against Rs. 6,679 in 1909-10 and Rs. 9,562 in 1908-09. Prosecutions
under the
Stamp Act

Compared with the last triennium, there has been a marked increase in the number of prosecutions. The annual average for that triennium was 773, while for the present one it is 1,940. The total of the fines imposed has not, however, increased in the same proportion, the average fine for the last triennium being nearly Rs. 3 per person convicted, but during the present triennium only about Rs. 3-8. The latter figure appears to be too low to act as a deterrent. The vast majority of the cases were instituted in Calcutta. The amount paid in rewards in 1910-11 was Rs. 5,056, as against Rs. 6,822 and Rs. 8,081 in the two previous years. Outside Calcutta, rewards are hardly ever given. In the report for 1907-08 it was stated that the increased activity in the prosecution of offences against the Stamp Act resulted in complaints in Calcutta. The Marwari Association, Calcutta, made a representation in 1906 to the Board of Revenue, and, after a careful consideration of the points urged by the Association, the Board instructed the Collector of Stamp Revenue, Calcutta, to exercise special caution in instituting proceedings in the case of old unstamped documents and laid down certain principles for his guidance. In September 1906 another representation was made by the same Association to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor complaining that the provisions of the Stamp Act were being harshly worked to the detriment of their interests and praying for the amendment of the existing law by fixing a limit of time beyond which action should not be taken in the case of an under-stamped or unstamped document. Full enquiry was made into the allegations of the memorialists, and Government was satisfied that the instructions of the Board had been observed and was unable to accede to the requests made by the Association.

Working of
section 19H
added to the
Court-fees Act
by Act XI of
1899.

530. The number of cases reported to the Collector fell off gradually, while the amount of deficit duty realized rose from Rs. 38,602 in 1908-09 to Rs. 44,031 in 1909-10, but fell again in 1910-11 by Rs. 22,327, or about 50 per cent. Of the cases reported during 1910-11, 78·7 per cent. were enquired into, the corresponding percentages in the two preceding years were 79·3 and 79·5. The proportion borne by the deficit duty realized to the amount originally paid was 5·7 in 1910-11 and 10·9 and 9·3 in the preceding years.

No case of serious under-valuation was discovered during the triennium.

INCOME-TAX.

[Income-tax Administration Report for the three years ending the 31st March 1911 Statistics of British India, Part IV(b)—Finance and Revenue]

Financial
results

531. The receipts, charges and net revenue under the head Income-tax were Rs. 53,86,892, Rs. 1,71,587 and Rs. 52,15,305, respectively. The net revenue showed a decrease of 3·9 per cent., as compared with 1909-10 and 4·8 per cent., as compared with 1908-09. The average net receipts for the triennium ending 31st March 1911 however showed an increase of 13·3 per cent over the receipts for the previous period of three years, a result chiefly due to the coal boon at the beginning of the period.

Collections

532. The total collections on account of the tax under all parts during the year 1910-11 showed decreases of Rs. 2,60,148 and Rs. 3,55,280, or 5·3 and 7·1 per cent., respectively, as compared with the figures of the preceding two years. In comparison with the previous year there was in 1910-11 an increase of 2·3 per cent. under Part I (Salaries, pensions annuities and gratuities) and 6·2 per cent. under Part III (Interest on securities), while under Part II (Profits of companies) and Part IV (Other sources) there was a decrease of 21·05 per cent. and 1·5 per cent., respectively. This decrease was due to the general depression of trade in Calcutta and to the bad state of the coal and jute markets.

The gross collections during the year 1910-11, including arrears of tax, penalties, etc., amounted to Rs. 48,93,587, as compared with Rs. 51,36,767 in 1909-10, Rs. 51,92,911 in 1908-09, and an average of Rs. 44,78,091 during the preceding triennium.

The percentage of tax collected under each part on the total amount of tax collected during the year 1910-11 was as follows:—

Part I—Salaries	...	18	Part III—Interest on securities	...	2·9
„ II—Profits of companies	19·7		„ IV—Other sources	...	59·4

533. The total number of persons finally assessed in 1910-11 amounted to 48,837, showing an increase of 2.4 and 3.4 per cent. in comparison with the figures for 1909-10 and 1908-09, while the final demand for 1910-11 showed a decrease of 3.3 per cent and 5.02 per cent. as compared with the figures of these two years respectively. The loss of revenue was most marked in Calcutta, Manbhum and Burdwan, and was due to the depression of trade, particularly in the coal, jute, lac and mica industries. Taking the average figures for the three years, the final number of assessees and the final demand showed an increase of 3,996 persons and Rs. 3,61,316, or 9.2 and 14.9 per cent. respectively over the average figures for the previous triennium.

534. Excluding Calcutta, only one person in 1,774 of the population pays income-tax, and the average amount paid by each assessee is Rs. 58. In Calcutta (which for income-tax purposes includes Howrah) the proportion is one person in 61, and the average tax paid is Rs. 165.

Forest Revenue.

[See Chapter IV of this Report]

Provincial Finance.

535. The following statement shows the actual receipts and charges on account of Provincial Services for 1910-11 as compared with those of 1909-10 —

Receipts and
Expenditure.

[The figures are in thousands of rupees]

RECEIPTS	Actuals, 1909-10	Actuals, 1910-11	EXPENDITURE	Actuals, 1909-10.	Actuals, 1910-11
Opening balance	Rs 58.44	Rs 91.18	Direct demand on the revenues—		
Principal Heads of Revenue—			1 Refunds and Drawbacks	1.43	1.47
I—Land Revenue—			2 Assignments and Compensations	65	64
Proper	1,66.60	1,63.96	3 Land Revenue	37.24	38.91
Adjustments	64.83	68.81	6 Stamps	2.16	2.14
IV—Stamps	78.09	79.30	7 Excise	4.36	4.42
V—Excise	83.86	89.87	8 Provincial Rates	42	43
VI—Provincial Rates	39.77	41.54	10 Assessed Taxes	78	78
VIII—Assessed Taxes	27.83	20.76	11 Forests	2.96	3.22
IX—Forests	5.40	5.84	12 Registration	7.79	7.74
X—Registration	13.53	12.59			
Total	4,79.61	4,88.09	Total	67.79	59.74
XII—Interest	7.95	7.48	13 Interest on ordinary debt	8.28	5.73
Receipts by Civil Department—			Salaries and Expenses of Civil Department—		
XVI—Law and Justice—			18 General Administration	19.02	19.91
Courts of Law	6.01	6.94	19 Law and Justice—		
Jails	8.69	9.42	Courts of Law	82.75	86.91
XVII—Police	1.90	1.87	Jails	25.90	23.73
XVIII—Ports and Pilotage	15.22	15.99	20 Police	81.58	83.17
XIX—Education	6.06	6.20	21 Ports and Pilotage	11.79	12.32
XX—Medical	2.90	3.46	22 Education	65.69	65.31
XXI—Scientific and other Minor Departments	3.47	3.32	23 Medical	23.38	24.37
Total	44.15	47.30	24 Political	52	62
Miscellaneous—			25 Scientific and other Minor Departments	12.20	13.48
XXII—Receipts in aid of Superannuation	66	64	Total	3,12.23	3,18.82
XXIII—Stationery and Printing	1.39	1.49	Miscellaneous—		
XXV—Miscellaneous	10.09	6.58	29 Superannuation, etc	27.13	27.67
Total	12.14	8.71	30 Stationery and Printing	13.17	12.31
Irrigation—			32 Miscellaneous	3.04	3.51
XXIX—Major Works (direct receipts)	27.02	25.64	Total	44.34	43.69
XXX—Minor Works and Navigation—			Famine Relief and Insurance—		
By Public Works Department	5.64	5.86	33 Famine Relief	2.67	
By Civil Department	1.02	1.05	Reduction or avoidance of debt	2.60	2.60
Total	38.69	32.55	Railways (Revenue Accounts)—		
Buildings and Roads—			40 Subsidized Companies—Land, etc		
XXXII—Civil Works—			41 Miscellaneous Railways Expenditure		
By Public Works Department	5.55	3.97	Total	5.27	2.60
By Civil Department	1.74	1.74	Irrigation—		
Total	4.20	5.11	42 Major Works—		
Contributions			Working expenses	14.43	14.55
Total Receipts	5,51.82	5,89.74	Interest on debt	20.75	20.76
GRAND TOTAL	6,40.26	6,80.92	43 Minor Works and Navigation—		
			By Public Works Department	21.50	20.65
			By Civil Department	12	8
			Total	57.00	56.04
			Buildings and Roads—		
			45 Civil Works—		
			By Public Works Department	49.51	49.74
			By Civil Department	16.76	15.80
			Total	66.27	65.54
			Contributions		
			Total charges	5,40.08	5,51.96
			Closing balance	91.18	1,29.96
			GRAND TOTAL	6,40.26	6,80.92
			Provincial surplus (+) or deficit (—)		

Variations—
(a) Receipts

536. The decrease under *Land Revenue* was due chiefly to the fact that there were fewer arrears than last year to collect. There were, moreover, fewer sales of Government estates, and the capitalized value of land revenue abated under the Land Acquisition Act was less than in the preceding year. The increase under *Adjustments* was due to special assignments for expenditure on Education and Sanitation. The variations under the heads *Stamps, Excise, Assessed Taxes* and *Forests*, which are divided equally between Imperial and Provincial, have been explained above in the section on Imperial Finance. The increase under *Provincial Rates* was in the collection of Public Works cess due to valuations and revaluations and to the assessment of mines and forests, while the decrease under *Registration* is attributed to a falling off in the number of registrations owing to the good harvests of the preceding year. The decrease under *Interest* was distributed under classes II and III of the loans, owing to smaller recoveries from loans on Drainage and Embankment advances and from the loan to the Maharaja Sir Prodyat Kumar Tagore. There were special receipts on account of process-servers' fees collected in cash in the districts of Midnapore, Khamua and Shahabad, and unusually larger receipts from Magisterial fines which account for the increases under *Law and Justice—Courts of Law*. The improvement under *Jails* was due to the result of special efforts made to push the sales of manufactured goods, while that under *Ports and Pilotage* was under pilotage receipts in the Port of Calcutta. The increase under *Education* was under High Schools for boys including Collegiate Schools, while that under *Medical* was chiefly due to larger receipts from paying patients in hospitals, and partly also to the fact that a sum of Rs 17,498 was received from the Port Commissioners on account of charges for the Clayton fumigating apparatus. The decrease under *Scientific and other Minor Departments* was under Cinchona plantations, and is accounted for by smaller sales of quinine. The increase under *Stationery and Printing* was on account of the sale of Gazettes and other publications, while the decrease under *Miscellaneous* was due to a decline in the amount of deposits lapsing to Government. The decrease under *Irrigation—Major Works* was chiefly in the water-rate collections in the Sone Canals, owing to a decrease in the area irrigated, while the increase under *Minor Works and Navigation* was from navigation receipts of the Calcutta and Eastern Canals and the Madaripur Bhil route and from irrigation receipts of the Eden Canal, that under *Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department* was due partly to recoveries of the Government share of the profits of the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway and partly to the realisation of rent from the Strand Bank, payable by the Port Commissioners, which was not credited during 1909-10.

(b) Expenditure

537. The increase under *Land Revenue* was partly on account of charges for the management and improvement of Government estates, and partly on account of the expenditure involved in bringing survey and settlement records in Orissa up to date. The expenditure under the head Survey and Settlements was also larger. The variation under *Forests*, which is divided equally between Provincial and Imperial, has been explained in the section on Imperial Finance. The decrease under *Interest* was due to smaller outstanding mean balances of the Provincial loans, while the increase under *General Administration* was chiefly on account of the formation of the Executive Council, the expansion of the Legislative Council and the payment of the travelling charges of non-official Members; and the re-organization of the Civil Secretariat establishment. The increase under *Courts of Law* was chiefly due to higher law charges and fees to Counsel in connection with the trial of political cases; partly also to the appointment of a fifth Presidency Magistrate and to larger grants for the charges for mufassal witnesses attending the High Court. The decrease under *Jails* was chiefly on account of the fall in the price of food-grains, smaller purchases of clothing and bedding and the non-payment of grain compensation allowance, while the increase under *Police* is attributed to expenditure on reforms and reorganization, chiefly in the Criminal Investigation Department, owing to the appointment of special officers and the payment on a larger scale of special and local allowances and rewards. The increase under *Ports and Pilotage* is accounted for by the purchase of new boilers for the steamer *Guide* and by larger payments to pilots owing to increased shipping, while the decrease under *Education* was chiefly due to decreased expenditure on the construction of

guru-training school buildings. The increase under *Medical* was due to the equipment and establishment of the new Surgical block attached to the Medical College, and to a special grant to the Burdwan hospital; that under *Political*, to larger expenditure on Durbar presents; while that under *Scientific and other Minor Departments* was chiefly under cinchona plantation on account of the purchase of a larger quantity of bark for the manufacture of quinine, and partly under *Miscellaneous* owing to the adjustment of the charges of the Fisheries Department to this head. The increase under *Superannuation* is attributed to the annual growth of expenditure under retired allowances, while the decrease under *Stationery and Printing* was due to smaller expenditure under establishment in the Secretariat Press. The decrease under *Miscellaneous* was under special Commissions of Enquiries, and was on account of the transfer of the charges of the Fishery Department to the head *Minor Departments*. Owing to better harvests no relief operations were undertaken, and there was no expenditure under the head *Famine Relief*. The decrease under *Irrigation—Major Works* was chiefly under Midnapore canals, while that under *Minor Works and Navigation* was owing to short outlay on the Krishnapur canals, which was completed during the year. The increase under *Civil Works by the Public Works Department* was due to larger expenditure on new works and repairs, and the decrease under *Civil Works in charge of the Civil Department* to smaller grants to Municipalities for drainage works.

Local Finance.

(Report on Local Funds in Bengal for the year 1910-11)

538. The following table shows the income and expenditure and the Balances. opening and closing balances of the different Local Funds in the province for the year 1910-11.—

Name of Fund	Opening balance	Receipts	Total	Payments	Closing balance
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs
District Funds	23,99,710	78,09,241	1,02,08,941	76,58,356	25,50,585
District Road Funds	63,518	2,77,281	3,40,799	2,76,003	64,796
Cantonment Funds—					
Alipore	4,885	4,024	8,909	7,878	1,031
Barrackpore	15,832	60,173	76,005	67,555	8,450
Dum-Dum	7,016	23,230	30,251	24,366	5,885
Dinapore	4,825	38,171	42,996	40,811	2,185
Doranda	1,139	157	1,296	1,296	
Jalapahar	318	9,241	9,559	8,773	786
Lebong	381	8,342	8,723	7,302	1,421
Total	34,396	1,43,343	1,77,739	1,57,981	19,758
Cantonment Hospital Funds—					
Barrackpore	126	3,626	3,752	3,633	119
Dum-Dum	5	1,066	1,070	1,066	4
Dinapore		4,015	4,015	4,014	1
Jalapahar	126	812	937	937	
Total	256	9,518	9,774	9,650	124
Town and Bazar Fund—					
Kolhan Market	4,588	3,605	8,193	3,728	4,465

Name of Fund.	Opening balance	Receipts	Total	Payments	Opening balance
Police Funds—					
Village Chaukidari	Rs. 1,00,678	Rs. 4,05,897	Rs. 5,06,575	Rs. 4,09,236	Rs. 97,339
Road Patrol ...	18,636	81,929	45,565	33,995	11,570
District Chaukidari Reward ...	82,496	46,934	1,29,160	36,851	92,809
Foundling Asylum ..	867	3,419	4,286	4,273	13
Fire Brigade ..	35,520	1,51,709	1,87,069	1,33,567	53,502
Total	2,33,037	6,39,618	8,72,655	6,17,922	2,54,733
Marine Funds—					
Hospital Port Dues (Calcutta)	1,251	89,763	97,014	98,291	-1,277
Orissa Ports ..	238	13,537	13,775	12,007	1,768
Total	7,489	1,03,300	1,10,789	1,10,298	491
Education Funds—					
Hindu College ...	833	4,752	5,585	4,342	1,243
Durga Charan Laha's	2,599	2,599	2,599	..
Jogiana Estate ..	501	2,357	2,858	2,856	2
Total ..	1,334	9,708	11,042	9,797	1,245
Medical and Charitable Funds—					
Pilgrims' Lodging House	67,023	81,560	1,48,583	49,264	99,319
Cuttack Annachatra	3,019	15,499	18,548	15,904	3,644
Bengal Famine Orphan	3,438	1,117	4,555	2,827	1,728
Ram Lal Mukharjee's Endow- ment	3,876	1,750	5,626	..	5,626
Joy Gobind Laha's ..	11,107	4,140	15,247	..	15,247
Imambara Hospital	1,067	10,756	11,823	8,276	3,547
Sambalpur Dispensary	4,520	30	4,550	4,550
Lepor Asylum	221	957	578	449	129
Total ...	94,301	1,15,209	2,09,510	80,270	1,29,240
Public Works Funds—					
Darjeeling Improvement	20,035	1,07,898	1,27,873	92,447	35,426
Khondmal Road ...	106	5,198	5,304	5,287	17
Total ...	20,141	1,13,096	1,13,177	97,734	35,443
Miscellaneous Funds—					
Steam Boiler Inspection	53,414	78,076	1,31,490	1,07,658	23,832
Zoological Garden ..	28,651	75,505	1,02,156	77,086	25,070
Mohsin Endowment	-3,698	1,01,747	1,07,049	91,041	16,008
Christian Burial Board ..	14,462	21,726	36,188	22,499	13,689
Muhammadan Burial Board	1,855	500	2,355	1,776	579
Total ...	92,684	2,86,554	3,79,235	3,00,060	79,178
GRAND TOTAL	29,51,444	95,10,413	1,24,61,857	93,21,799	31,40,058

The Chuni Lal Seal's Endowment Fund and the Doranda Cantonment Fund were closed during the year, and their balances transferred to Government.

539. The following grants were credited to Cantonment Funds from the Military Department — Dinapore Rs. 13,180, Jalapahar Rs. 6,050 and Lebong Rs. 4,219. From the invested funds of the Hospital Port Dues Fund (Calcutta) securities were sold to the extent of Rs. 10,000 to meet the anticipated deficit of the fund, which still, however, showed a shortage of Rs. 1,277 at the close of the year. The Durga Charan Laha Fund received a grant of Rs. 825, the Muhammadan Burial Board Fund Rs. 500, and the Khondmal Road Fund Rs. 2,210 from the Local Government, while a temporary advance of Rs. 9,000 was made to the Mohsin Fund repayable in 1911-12. Government securities to the extent of Rs. 3,000 were purchased from the balance to the credit of the Bengal Famine Orphan Fund, and Rs. 41,800 from that of the Steam Boiler Inspection Fund.

Changes and grants.

Road and Public Works Cesses.

[Land Revenue Administration Report for 1910-11.]

540. As in the previous year, both the cesses were levied at the full rate of one anna in each rupee of the annual value of lands or annual net profits of mines and other immovable properties. Rate at which levied

541. The current land revenue demand of the thirty districts in which the Cess Act is in force was Rs. 2,86,37,572 or 20.3 per cent. of the annual valuation or gross rental (Rs. 14,09,08,268), on which the cesses were assessed. The total cess demand (current and arrear) was Rs. 92,23,017 and the total collections amounted to Rs. 79,71,806, an outstanding balance of Rs. 11,92,815 was left at the close of the year. As compared with the previous year, the current demand, owing chiefly to valuations and revaluations and to the assessment of mines and forests, increased by Rs. 1,86,501, to which the district of Bhagalpur alone contributed Rs. 59,440 and the Sonthal Parganas Rs. 39,058. The balance was made up mainly by the districts of Burdwan, Manbhum, Murshidabad and Monghyr. The remissions amounted to Rs. 1,07,526 and were due chiefly to the revision of assessment of coal mines in Burdwan and Manbhum, some of which worked at a loss or had to be closed, to general revaluation in the district of Murshidabad resulting in the reduction of the current and arrear cess demands of certain estates and rent-free lands, and to the elimination of double assessments in regard to rent-free lands in the district of Gaya. Demand and realisations.

542. The number of certificates filed for the recovery of cess-arrears was 73,162, as against 73,233 in the previous year. The objections against certificates filed and disposed of numbered 5,108 and 5,018, as against 4,623 and 4,547, respectively, in the previous year. In 453 cases, as against 969 in the previous year, the certificates were cancelled on account of the death and desertion of the judgment-debtors, disappearance of the actual holders, double assessments and errors in the land registration registers. The number of cases in which reductions were made in the certificate demand was 249, as against 130 in the previous year. Notices for the sale of the defaulters' movable and immovable properties induced payment in 35,913 and 7,605 cases respectively. In 924 cases only (as against 1,444 in the preceding year) was recourse had to actual sales before the demands were satisfied. Of these sales, 426 were set aside under sections 20 and 21 of the Certificate Act as against 703 of the previous year. Working of the certificate procedure

543. During the year valuations or revaluations were in progress in 13 out of the 30 districts to which the Act is applicable. Valuations and revaluations.

Municipal Revenue.

[See Chapter III of this Report—"Municipal administration."]

CHAPTER VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

Vital Statistics.

[Report of the Sanitary Commissioner, Bengal, for the year 1910 Statistics of British India—
Part V—Area, Population and Public Health]

Climatic conditions

544. During the pre-monsoon period, while rain was fairly general, the showers were light, and the early monsoon current was also weak. The monsoon rains continued, however, well into September and October, while in November there was rain throughout Bihar and in parts of Chota Nagpur. On the whole, the climatic conditions of the year were favourable, and the outturn of the different harvests was satisfactory.

Births and deaths.

545 The year 1909 had shown an increase of births, concurrently with a decrease of deaths, in comparison with the two preceding years, but during 1910, while the number of births again rose, the mortality was higher than in 1909. The number of births registered exclusive of Angul was 2,007,222, or 39.72 per mille of population, as compared with 1,909,547, or 37.79 per mille during the previous year. The result was attributed to the healthiness of the preceding year and to the cheaper prices of food-grains which then prevailed. The most marked improvement was shown in Orissa, which stood second in comparison with other divisions, with a birth-rate of 43.99 per mille, as against 33.87 in 1909, the worst result recorded during that year. The number of deaths reported aggregated 1,672,640, or 33.10 per mille of population, as against 1,543,971, or 30.55 per mille during 1909. This deterioration in the general health was almost solely due to the prevalence of cholera and plague, which was especially marked in the Patna and Tirhut divisions. As regards deaths from fever, Calcutta returned far better results than other towns. In comparison with other Provinces, Bengal stood fourth in the order of birth-rates instead of third as in the preceding year, and fifth as regards death-rate, the same position as that which it occupied in 1909. The verification of the registration of vital statistics by the vaccination staff was conducted on a larger scale than in the previous year, and the worst results were reported from Khulna, Shahabad and the Sonthal Parganas.

Cholera

546. Following upon the good results of 1909, cholera again assumed serious proportions during the year under review, being responsible for 162,611 deaths (3.21 per mille), in comparison with 16,711, or 1.12 per mille. The mortality, however, was below the average (of 174,051) of the five years 1905-09. The Patna and Tirhut divisions suffered most severely, and, as usual, the disease was spread by the disregard of precautions in respect of drinking water. The use of permanganate of potash for disinfecting wells was resorted to with good results, noticeably in Gaya, Shahabad, Champaran and Darbhanga, but in Purnea opposition was encountered owing to the ignorance of the people. In Sitamarhi, no less than 16.35 per mille of the population succumbed.

Fever.

547. The downward tendency in the mortality from fever, which was noticed in 1909, was maintained during 1910, the total number of deaths recorded being 1,031,929 (or 20.42 per mille) as compared with 1,056,237 (20.90 per mille) in 1909, and 1,151,909 (22.79 per mille), the average of the five years 1905-09. The worst affected district was Shahabad, in which the mortality was 30.25 per mille, followed by Darjeeling and Purnea. Darbhanga, which was badly stricken in 1909, returned a rate of 23.77 only during the year under review. Among towns, Sahibganj in the Sonthal Parganas was again the worst sufferer, but with a decreased mortality of 35.06 per mille, as against 40.75 per mille in 1909. On the basis of the figures for the last six years, Bihar and Chota Nagpur are markedly more feverish than either Bengal or Orissa. Anti-malarial measures were carried on in North Barrackpore (mainly at the cost of Government), and in Cossipore-

Chitpur, Maniktala, Garden Reach, Titaghar, Panihati, Hazaribagh and Daltonganj, at the expense of the local municipalities. A Provincial Malaria Committee was appointed during the year with a view to supervising the continuous investigation of the question of the prevalence of malaria, and an executive staff, consisting of a Special Deputy Sanitary Commissioner and an Assistant Surgeon, was placed at its disposal. It was hoped that more systematic methods of work would eventually result in the discovery of some means of dealing with this scourge, although the financial difficulty of executing works of drainage, etc., on an extensive scale has not yet been solved. The successful experiment of appointing itinerant Sub-Assistant Surgeons to specially malarious districts was continued and extended, 23 Sub-Assistant Surgeons being deputed, as against 19 in 1909, to work in seven districts as compared with six in 1909. In Purnea the experiment was tried, with some success, of a regular free issue of quinine to Government servants in receipt of pay of Rs. 10 per mensem and less.

548. There was a rise in mortality from dysentery and diarrhoea, the number of deaths being 45,902, or 90 per mille, as compared with 35,981, or 71 per mille in 1909. The Orissa division, as usual, suffered most, and the Bhagalpur division least. Dysentery and diarrhoea.

549. Twenty-five thousand three hundred and fifty-seven deaths occurred under this head, as compared with 27,280 in the preceding year. Ninety cases of snake-bite were treated with permanganate of potash, as compared with 59 during 1909, of which nearly 82 per cent are claimed to have recovered. Nine cases out of 11 treated with antivenene in Saran proved successful. Injury.

550. The total expenditure by municipalities on conservancy, drainage and water-supply during the year 1909-10 continued to increase, and amounted to Rs. 24,88,154, which is Rs. 2,90,774 in excess of the figure of 1908-09. There was a marked improvement in the working of the septic tank installations on the banks of the Hooghly, and that analysis showed the effluent to be virtually sterile as it passed into the river. The Sanitary Commissioner's laboratory was enlarged during the year, and all water analyses, both chemical and bacteriological, are now undertaken at it. Sanitary improvements.

551. During the year under report, sketch projects for six water-supply schemes (at Uttarpara, Puri, Bankura, Kalna, Satkhira and Patna) were under consideration, and 13 water-supply schemes (at Darjeeling, Monghyr, Bhagalpur, Naihati, Bhatpara, Jessore, Gaya, Serampore, the South Suburban Municipality, Hooghly-Chinsura, Howrah, Khulna and Kurseong) were either under construction or had reached the stage when tenders for the contracts had been called for. A comprehensive and expensive scheme for the supply of water to the whole of the Jheiria coal-fields was also under examination. There were in the province 19 municipalities possessing water-works on a more or less elaborate scale, which serve a population of rather over half a million, and the total capital cost of which, up to the 31st December 1910, was approximately Rs. 48 lakhs. Thirteen drainage schemes were under examination during the year at Bhagalpur, Gaya, Sahibganj, Azimganj, Kushtia, Motihari, Ranchi, North Barrackpore, Bhadreswar, Asansol, Maniktala, Chapra and Purulia, while drainage projects at Howrah, Puri, Arrah, Daltonganj, Bhatpara, Baranagore, Budge Budge, Basirhat, Barasat and Baruiপুর were under construction. In four cases (Hazaribagh, Berhampore, Burdwan and Monghyr) tenders were called for. Twenty towns were provided with drainage works of varying degrees of completeness, upon which a capital expenditure of about Rs. 16½ lakhs had been incurred up to the 31st December 1910. Sanitary Board.

Plague.

552. The mortality from plague, which had decreased during the last four years, showed a marked increase during the year 1910, the total number of deaths which were registered from this cause being nearly four times the number recorded in the previous year (46,584 against 11,779). No reason can be assigned for this recrudescence of the disease, but it synchronises with similar Plague.

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results throughout India. The disease began to be marked at the close of the year 1909, and steadily increased during the months of January, February and March 1910; in the latter month the disease showed the highest mortality of 14,915. The disease in the 19 districts affected was, as usual, most severe in Saran, which recorded 21,078 deaths, while among towns the worst affected was that of Monghyr with a mortality of 28.51 per mille. A noticeable fact of the prevalence of the disease in the district of Saran is that the foci of the epidemic were much more scattered than during the previous year. Places far distant from one another were attacked, while the intervening country was free, and the spread of the disease was not from village to village. Inoculation is still held in extreme disfavour by the mass of people, and the number of operations performed during the year showed a still further decrease from 704 in 1909 to 349 in 1910. The evacuation of houses continued to be the only preventive measure regularly adopted, while the use of kerosine oil emulsion as a disinfectant was tried in some districts. Over 370,000 rats are reported to have been destroyed, though the number is less than in the previous year.

Plague in
Calcutta.

553. Calcutta, which headed the list with the highest mortality in the province during the preceding year, showed a considerable decline during the year under review, with 1,262 deaths, as against 2,117 in 1909. As in the previous year, the epidemic was at its highest during the month of May with a mortality of 300. Inoculation continues to be unpopular, and owing to this and to the fact that plague was less severe than in previous years, no operations were performed in Calcutta during 1909-10.

Emigration.

COLONIAL EMIGRATION.

[Annual Report on Emigration from the Port of Calcutta to British and Foreign Colonies during the year 1910. Statistics of British India, Part V—Area, Population and Public Health.]

Administrative
measures.

554. A legislative measure of considerable importance in its effects upon colonial emigration was passed by the Government of India during the year under review. Act XIV of 1910 amends Act XVII of 1908 with a view to empower the Governor-General in Council to prohibit emigration to any country for reasons which appear to him to be sufficient, and a notification prohibiting emigration to Natal with effect from 1st July 1911 has issued in terms of the Act as amended. Action has also been taken during the year under review, both by the Imperial and Local Governments in exercise of their respective statutory powers, to amend existing procedure with reference both to the recruitment and despatch of emigrants. Recruitment operations for the colonies prior to 1910 had been conducted on a small scale in the Sonthal Parganas under the provisions of Act XXI of 1883. The number of emigrants from this district increased, however, during the year under review, and it was decided in consequence to extend the provisions of Act XVII of 1908 to the district, a measure to which effect was given in September 1910. Precautions were taken by the Government of India with a view to safeguard the interests of emigrants during their voyages to the colonies.

Depots and
despatch of
emigrants.

555. The number of emigration agencies, which recruited and despatched emigrants to the colonies during 1910 was the same as that recorded for the previous year; all five agencies worked on behalf of the British colonies. The total number of adult labourers requisitioned during 1910 shows a considerable increase over the demand for 1909; the figures are 12,153 and 9,347, respectively. There was, however, a slight decrease in the number of labourers supplied during 1910. No requisitions were received during the year under report either from Jamaica or from Surinam, while on the contrary Mauritius and Natal, which requisitioned no emigrants during 1909, show a demand for 700 and 1,953 emigrants, respectively, during 1910; the latter colony received the full number of labourers requisitioned. The decrease in emigration, which was reported for the year 1909 and maintained during the year under review, is attributed to the prevalence of good harvests in India,

with a resultant decline in the prices of food-grains, and an increase in the local demand for labour in the recruiting districts.

Health and
physical
fitness

556. The number of licenses issued to recruiters during 1910 was 658, showing an increase of 87 over the number recorded for 1909; 22 licenses were cancelled during the year under report. Recruiting operations were conducted in the same areas as in 1909, viz., Bengal, Behar, United Provinces, Ajmere, Central Provinces and the Punjab; of the total number of 12,968 emigrants registered, the largest percentage was as usual recorded in the United Provinces. There was a slight increase in the total number of emigrants registered during 1910 over the number for 1909; the figures are 12,968 and 12,691 for the two years, respectively. As many as 1,473 were rejected as unfit to emigrate, 51 deserted and 63 were released from their engagements. The percentages of rejections and desertions show an increase which is attributed to the scarcity of labour, and to the fact that less care may have been exercised by recruiters in their selection of labourers. It is satisfactory to observe a considerable increase, viz., from 316 during 1909 to 475 during the year under review, in the numbers of returned emigrants who volunteered for re-registration; the percentage of returned to fresh emigrants increased from 3.77 to 5.96 during the same period.

Sanitary
arrangements
in depots.

557. Sanitary arrangements at the depôts were reported to be satisfactory during 1910. The health statistics show an increase in the percentage of sickness from 6.05 in 1909 to 9.45 in 1910. The percentage of deaths decreased, however, from .71 to .67 during this period, the largest number (49) being due, as in previous years, to cerebro-spinal meningitis.

Returned
emigrants and
their savings.

558. Two thousand seven hundred and twenty-seven emigrants left the colonies, bringing back with them ascertained savings amounting to Rs. 4,17,032. The aggregate savings are considerably lower than last year, when they reached the high figure of nearly Rs. 7 lakhs. A diminution in the number of emigrants who returned during 1910 accounts partly for the decrease in the amount of savings brought back. As usual, the amount of remittances to India from emigrants to Natal (over Rs. 10 lakhs) far exceeded those from emigrants to the other colonies. This excess in remittances from Natal was explained in last year's report on the hypothesis that Natal emigrants are not allowed to settle or invest their money in the purchase of immovable property after the period of their indenture. It has subsequently been ascertained, in the course of correspondence with the Secretary to the Indian Immigration Trust Board of Natal, that emigrants to Natal are, as a matter of fact, permitted to invest their money in the purchase of immovable property subject to no restriction, beyond the general rule that time expired labourers who wish to remain in the colony are permitted to do so on payment of an annual license of £3. In any case, however, it appears that emigrants to Natal prefer to remit their savings to friends and relations in India to a much greater extent than do emigrants to the other colonies.

INLAND EMIGRATION

[Reports on Inland Emigration under the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, 1901 (VI of 1901), for the year ending the 30th June 1911, submitted by the Superintendents of Emigration, Calcutta, the Sonthal Pargannas, Hazaribagh, Ranchi, Palamau, Manbhum, Singhbhum and Sambalpur.]

Administrative
measures.

559. In last year's report it was stated that the ultimate abolition of recruitment by contractors was an ideal to be kept in view but to be attained gradually. In pursuance of this principle, the districts of Howrah and Sambalpur were closed to recruitment by contractors with effect from the 1st August 1910; and in view of the irregularities which are reported to be of frequent occurrence at the chief recruiting centres, Government has at present under consideration proposals for further reducing the area still open to recruitment under Chapter III of Act VI of 1901. One of the chief reasons for the prevalence of abuses at Asansol was the large number of contractors located at the centre and the consequent growth of excessive competition which led to the encouragement of illegal operations. Orders have therefore been issued by Government to the effect that Superintendents of Emigration are at liberty to refuse to issue further licenses in areas in which more than a reasonable number of contractors are found to be working.

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**Number of
emigrants.**

560. The number of emigrants of all classes recruited in Bengal, Madras, the Central Provinces, the United Provinces and adjoining Native States, who embarked at Goalundo during the year, was 37,675, as compared with 33,744 in the preceding year. Of this number 7,226 were recruited by licensed contractors and 26,727 by garden sardars of all classes, as against 7,021 and 25,447, respectively, in the year 1909-10. The number of emigrants from Native States rose from 1,276 in 1909-10 to 3,722 in 1910-11. Attention was drawn in last year's report to the increase which had occurred in the recruitment of Free or non-Act labourers during 1909-10, compared with the figures recorded for 1908-09; this year's increase is also worthy of comment and is engaging the special attention of Government in view of the fact that it has taken place in defiance of the prohibitions and restrictions which the Chiefs are known to place upon emigration from their States. Six thousand four hundred and forty emigrants were registered in Bengal under Chapter III, and 2,045 under Chapter IV, as against 5,943 and 2,141 in the preceding year. Of the former class of emigrants, 911 (as against 1,039 in the previous year) were forwarded without being placed on contract and of the latter class 793 (as against 813 in the year 1909-10). Fifty-seven emigrants, as against 94 in the previous year, were recruited by garden sardars holding special permits under section 90, while 11,798 unindentured emigrants were engaged by garden sardars working under the control of approved Associations, as against 11,925 in the year 1909-10. There was a falling off in emigration from the districts of Hazaribagh, Palamau and the Sonthal Parganas, due to better crops and a consequent increase in the local demand for labour. In the districts of Ranchi, Manbhum, Singhbhum and Sambalpur, on the other hand, more emigrants were recruited during the year under review than in the previous year, chiefly owing to the fact that a larger number of sardars was sent down from the labour districts. There was some increase in the number of emigrants recruited under Chapter III of the Act in the districts of Midnapore, Bankura, Cuttack and the 24-Parganas, but a decrease in the districts of Ranchi, Manbhum, Burdwan, Birbhum and Balasore.

**Number of
recruiting
agents.**

561. The number of licensed contractors, sub-contractors and recruiters working during the year were 24, 4 and 277, respectively, as against 27, 4 and 236 in the previous year. The licenses of 10 contractors and 79 recruiters were cancelled during the year for irregularities and misconduct. The total number of garden sardars employed in this province was 9,646 as against 8,507 in the year 1908-09. Of these 1,344 worked under Chapter IV of the Act, and 60 hold special permits under section 90, while the remaining 8,242 worked under the control of approved Associations. As in the previous year the work of the local agents of these Associations is reported to have been generally satisfactory. In all 38 local agents' licenses were issued during the year, of which four licenses were subsequently cancelled.

Criminal cases.

562. The number of criminal cases in connection with recruitment fell from 99 in the previous year to 95 in the year under review, while the number of persons convicted fell from 73 to 64.

**Condition of
depôts and rest-
houses.**

563. The depôts, places of accommodation and rest-houses for emigrants were regularly inspected and were maintained in good sanitary condition. No outbreaks of epidemic disease have been reported.

**Inland labour
transport fund.**

564. There was an improvement in the receipts and a falling off in the charges in connection with the transport of labour to Assam, the figures being Rs. 11,625 and Rs. 20,294, respectively, as against Rs. 10,870 and Rs. 20,860 in the year 1909-10. The increase in the receipts was due chiefly to the fact that a larger number of emigrants was registered under the Act during the year under report than during the preceding year.

Medical Institutions.

**Medical
Service.
General.**

565. The pay and prospects of medical subordinates hitherto known as "Civil Hospital Assistants" was further improved with effect from the 1st April 1910, and their official designation was changed to that of "Sub-Assistant Surgeon."

CALCUTTA MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

[Report on the working of the Charitable Dispensaries and Hospitals in Bengal for 1910. Statistics of British India, Part V—Area, Population and Public Health]

566. As in the previous year, there were 17 hospitals and dispensaries at work in Calcutta. The number of beds provided in them was 1,724 and the number of in-door patients treated was 27,583, as against 27,872 in the previous year, the decrease being due to the general healthiness of the year. The admissions to the Eden Hospital, the Dufferin Victoria Hospital and the Shama Charan Law Eye Infirmary were 1,966, 1,172 and 1,218, respectively. The hospital accommodation in Calcutta was generally sufficient. Patients who sought outdoor relief numbered 318,016, or about 10 thousand more than in the previous year. The increase occurred chiefly in the Medical College Hospital, the Shama Charan Law Eye Hospital and the Howrah General Hospital. Calcutta hospitals and dispensaries and the number of patients.

567. The small-pox cases treated were 43, of which six Europeans and Eurasians and 19 Indians were treated in the Campbell Hospital, and two of the latter died. Out of 1,901 cases of cholera registered during the year, 634 were admitted into hospitals, of which 214 were treated in the Campbell Hospital. There was a lower rate of mortality from cholera in the cases treated in the Medical College Hospital, viz, 23.62. The treatment mainly followed, consisted of intravenous injection of large quantities of hypertonic salt solution, and a solution of calcium permanganate given to drink freely. The same method, which was followed during the last six months of 1910 in the Campbell Hospital, gave as the percentage of recovery 66.48 being the percentage obtained from other modes of treatment. The number of sufferers from tubercular diseases increased from 2,378 in 1909 to 2,590. Statistics apparently do not show that the disease is largely on the increase in Calcutta, though the opinion of the medical profession generally is that it is more prevalent than before. The number of deaths from plague decreased from 2,117 in 1909 to 1,262 in 1910. The Campbell Hospital treated 99 cases, of which 63 died. Dysentery and diarrhoea accounted for 15,349 admissions, enteric fever for 220, remittent fever for 200 and cerebro-spinal fever for 87. There were 89 beri-beri cases with five deaths. An enquiry into the causes of this disease was conducted by Captain E. W. D. Greig, I.M.S. There was altogether an increase of 2,680 in the number of female patients treated in the hospitals. Diseases treated.

The number of surgical cases recorded was 35,790.

568. The total income of all the institutions in Calcutta, excluding the Police Hospital and the Dockyard Dispensary, amounted to Rs. 12,53,298, as against Rs. 14,74,587 in 1909, showing a decrease of Rs. 2,21,289, chiefly due to smaller grants from Government on account of charges for buildings which were either completed or nearing completion. Subscriptions and donations amounted to Rs. 52,419 as against Rs. 60,267 in 1909. Income.

569. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 11,54,274, or Rs. 2,34,842 less than that of the previous year, the decrease being due to smaller charges for building repairs on which Rs. 1,54,653 were spent. Expenditure.

CHARITABLE DISPENSARIES OUTSIDE CALCUTTA.

570. During the year nine dispensaries were opened or brought under Government supervision, and there were at the close of the year 589 dispensaries in the province, of which 70 were Government institutions, 278 local fund, 65 railway, 50 private aided, and 126 private non-aided dispensaries. Besides these, there was an itinerant dispensary at Orora in the district of Balasore started by Government for the benefit of khasmahal tenants, and one floating dispensary each in the districts of Cuttack, Burdwan and Khulna for visiting water girt places situated far away from established centres of medical relief. In addition to the medical aid afforded by these dispensaries, arrangements were made in 21 districts to depute medical officers in charge of dispensaries to visit outlying markets for rendering medical aid to the people assembled there. Number of dispensaries.

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Number of
patients.

Diseases
treated

571. The total number of in-door patients treated was 67,870, or 278 less than that in the previous year. Out-door patients numbered 4,384,167, as against 4,421,925 in 1909.

572 The year was not quite so healthy as the previous one in the districts, the death-rate per mille being 33.19 as against 30.49 in 1909. The number of malarial fever cases treated in the hospitals and dispensaries was 1,164,496, or 26.16 per cent., as against 1,310,105, or 29.2 per cent. in 1909. No district in the province was free from the disease. The Presidency division suffered most, followed next by the Tirhut division, where, however, the number of cases decreased from 418,576 in 1909 to 280,30 during the year under review. In the Patna division there was a much smaller incidence, the figures being 113,020 compared with 168,722 in the previous year. Of the individual districts, Nadia stands first with 60,48 cases, as against 37,514 in 1909. Murshidabad had 50,412 cases, as against 37,514 in the previous year. Twenty-three Sub-Assistant Surgeons, who were deputed to specially malarious districts, treated 76,248 cases.

Cases of small-pox decreased from 1,345 in 1909 to 237. Plague was very prevalent during the year, the number of deaths rising from 9,662 in 1909 to 45,322 in the year under report. Bowel-complaints (dysentery and diarrhoea) were the causes of 189,796 admissions compared with 173,344 in the previous year, the mortality from these diseases being 44,095. Cholera was also prevalent, the number of deaths being 160,710 in 1910, or an increase of 106,021 on the number in 1909. The Patna and Tirhut divisions suffered most. Tubercular diseases furnished 6,503 as against 6,574 in the previous year. The total number of surgical operations performed during the year was 176,818.

Income.

573. The total income of the Government local fund and private aided dispensaries amounted to Rs. 10,10,028, as against Rs. 10,39,933 in 1909, Government having contributed Rs. 1,57,369, or 15.58 per cent. in 1910. The payments made by Commissioners of Divisions from grants placed at their disposal amounted to Rs. 40,669. Municipalities contributed Rs. 2,19,151, District Boards Rs. 3,00,559, and the subscriptions and donations to dispensaries by Indian gentlemen amounted to Rs. 1,69,272, excluding a munificent donation of one lakh of rupees made by Raja Rao Jogendra Narayan Roy Bahadur of Lalgola, and a large gift by the Hon'ble Sir Bijay Chand Mahtab, K.C.I.E., Maharajahdiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, towards the Fraser Hospital at Burdwan, of which mention has already been made in Chapter III.

Expenditure.

574. The total expenditure, excluding the amount invested, was Rs. 9,89,504, as against Rs. 10,05,185 in 1909. The expenditure on buildings was Rs. 2,10,884, and that on beds, clothings, furniture and other articles of hospital comforts was Rs. 1,03,662.

Leper Asylums

575. In 1910, 2,904 lepers were treated in 11 leper asylums in the province. The cost of maintenance was Rs. 1,17,980. A new ward for insane lepers was built in the Gobra Asylum during the year.

Triennial
statistics.

576. A comparison of the figures for the three years 1908, 1909 and 1910 with those for the years 1905, 1906 and 1907 is not without interest. During the past three years the total number of dispensaries in the province has only increased by two, from 587 to 589, and in many districts (e.g., Muzaffarpur with one dispensary for 229,566 persons) the population is out of all proportion to the dispensaries available for their use. Private generosity appears to be unequal to the effort of providing increased accommodation, and the burden falls therefore on local bodies who, though alive to a certain extent to the needs of the population, might well endeavour to devote a still larger proportion of their resources to this object. The average annual number of indoor patients rose from 60,796 during the previous triennium to 66,466, while the total number of outdoor patients rose from 11,559,639 in 1905-07 to 12,771,193 in 1908-10, or an increase of 10.5 per cent. The percentage of the total population which obtained medical relief amounted to 9.5 per cent in 1910, a figure which does not compare very favourably with that of the United Provinces, where the percentage was 10.8. On the whole it may be said that during the last three years there has been a steady but not rapid progress, and it is to be hoped that local bodies assisted by private generosity will be able to show still more satisfactory results in the near future.

Eden Sanitarium, Darjeeling.

[Report on the Eden Sanitarium and Hospital during 1910]

577. The attendance during the year under review was the highest on record since the Sanitarium was opened. The increase was noticeable in all classes of patients, especially in the first class, where the number rose from 104 in 1909 to 146 in 1910. Of the total admissions, 427 were patients, and 159 relatives and friends, as against 389 and 83, respectively, in the previous year. Number of admissions.

578. Donations and subscriptions amounting to Rs. 426 only were received, as against Rs. 430 in 1909 and Rs. 611 in 1908. There was, however, a surplus of Rs. 2,520, compared with Rs. 1,069 during the preceding year. As the Sanitarium was established for the good of the European community resident in Darjeeling and other places, more liberal donations and subscriptions are expected from that community than are at present received. Six free beds were maintained as against two in the previous year. Eight patients from the Presidency General Hospital and three from the Medical College Hospital took advantage of those beds, while eight patients were given free admission at the discretion of the Superintendent. Only one European Government servant was admitted during the year on the concession rate of charges sanctioned for this class of patients, as against seven in the previous year. No European Assistant of any Bank or Mercantile firm sought admission during the two years under the reduced rates fixed for them. The total expenditure on free beds amounted to Rs. 1,129, an increase of Rs. 11 on the expenditure of last year. Financial condition and free beds

Lunatic Asylums.

[Annual Returns of Lunatic Asylums in Bengal for 1910 Statistics of British India, Part V—Area, Population and Public Health.]

579. There were 943 lunatics confined in the asylums in Bengal at the end of the year 1910 as against 908 in 1909, 38.6 and 39.87 per cent. respectively of these figures represent the criminal population of these asylums. Population, admission and discharge. During the year 94 lunatics were discharged and 61 died. The total daily average strength during 1910 was 926.48. In the Berhampur Asylum the daily average strength during the year under review was 651.34 and the greatest number under confinement in any one night was 674. The extent to which this asylum was overcrowded may be gauged from the fact that the actual accommodation available is for 620 lunatics only. The asylums at Patna and Bhowanipur also were slightly overcrowded.

580. In spite of overcrowding the death-rate among lunatics during the year under review was low. The total number of admissions to hospitals was 630 as against 655 in 1909, the daily average number of patients during 1909 and 1910 being 115.72 and 82.81. The percentage of those constantly sick to the total average strength also showed a decrease, 8.94 as against 13.05. There was no case of either cholera or small-pox. Cases of fever were less numerous, the figure being 214, as compared with 248 in 1909. There were no deaths from these causes. Under the head of Dysentery there were 34 admissions with 8 deaths, as against 24 and 5, respectively, in the previous year. The total mortality increased from 47 in 1909 to 61 in the year under report, the death-rates per cent. being 6.58 and 5.30, respectively. The rate of mortality in Bengal for 1910 was much less than that which obtained in other provinces during the same year, and also compares favourably with the figures for County and Borough asylums in England in 1909. Sickness and mortality.

581. The total expenditure on the upkeep of the asylums was Rs. 1,67,770, as against Rs. 1,58,711 in the preceding year. The cost of superintendence rose from Rs. 23,029 in 1909 to Rs. 27,452 in 1910. The increase occurred at Berhampur only, and is accounted for by the fact that the permanent Superintendent, who was in charge of the institution throughout the Finance.

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year, drew pay at a higher rate according to his rank than the officer who acted for him in 1909 while he was on leave. There was a total saving of Rs. 3,660 in the establishment charges in 1910. The diet cost fell from Rs. 71,033 in 1909 to Rs. 69,806 in 1910, owing chiefly to the cheaper rates paid for food-grains. The total charge for Bazar and European medicines was practically the same as in the previous year. The average cost per lunatic was Rs. 181-1-4 as against Rs. 179-0-4 in 1909. The amount realized from paying patients was Rs. 16,676 as compared with Rs. 14,478 in the previous year. The increase chiefly occurred at Bhowanipur, owing to the admission of a larger number of patients of this class.

Central
asylums.

582. The scheme for the construction, at a reduced cost, of a Central asylum at Ranchi for Indian lunatics was under the consideration of Government during the year under review. The preparation of detailed plans and estimates for the revised scheme had not been completed at the close of the year. Detailed plans and estimates for the asylum for European lunatics were also under preparation.

Sanitation.

[Forty-third Report of the Sanitary Commissioner, Bengal, for 1910]

Sanitary works
executed in
towns and
rural areas.

583. The total cost of sanitary works executed during the year 1909-10 by municipalities, district boards, Government and private individuals amounted to Rs. 11,88,448 against Rs. 12,95,431 in the previous year. The following, each of which cost Rs. 5,000 or more, were most important:—

- (1) Construction of masonry drains in the towns of Howrah (Rs. 82,713), Tittaghur (Rs. 82,058), Arrah (Rs. 77,123), Puri (Rs. 31,308), Bhatpara (Rs. 27,461), Garulia (Rs. 12,479), Khulna (Rs. 11,432), Baranagore (Rs. 10,242) and Barasat (Rs. 9,283).
- (2) Remodelling some of the existing drains in Darjeeling Municipality into Silk's type, Rs. 8,217.
- (3) Construction of *kutcha* drains and masonry culverts at Baruipur, Rs. 5,710.
- (4) Works in connection with the Darjeeling sewage scheme and ropeway, Rs. 62,064.
- (5) Construction of hospital buildings at Kurseong Bazar (Rs. 60,397) and Chitpur (Rs. 8,946).
- (6) Construction of a charitable dispensary at Boinchee (district Hooghly) from the Trust Fund of late Babu Behari Lall Mukherji, who was a local zemindar, Rs. 8,000.
- (7) Excavation of tanks for raising lands with a view to extend the trenching ground of the Cossipore-Chitpur Municipality, Rs. 10,792.
- (8) Laying filtered water-pipes by the Maniktola Municipality (Rs. 9,250) and Tollygunge (Rs. 6,737)
- (9) Cost of construction of filtered water main at Balliaghata by the Maniktola Municipality, Rs. 8,193.
- (10) Construction of a market and sinking of a well at Dhanbaid by Sabdar Ali Khan, Rs. 14,000.

The Hon'ble Rai Kisoril Lal Goswami Bahadur, zamindar, has given lands worth Rs. 10,000 free of cost to the Commissioners of the Bhatpara Municipality for their drainage scheme, which is being carried out.

Septic Tank
latrines

584. During the year the septic tank installations were very carefully supervised by Mr. Dallas, and without exception all are in a very much improved condition. Many filters were enlarged and remodelled, and new installations were erected where necessary; and it may now be reported that these sanitary appliances are extremely efficient and, speaking generally, very well looked after. A slight modification in the method of adding a liquor renders this somewhat difficult problem now extremely easy and efficient. The analysis shows that in practically every case the effluent is virtually sterile as it passes into the river.

585. As usual, special attention was paid to the observance of sanitary and medical precautions at all big fairs and festivals held during the year 1910. In Puri the municipal and lodging-house authorities took great interest in the matter. All the wells were disinfected, and extra sweepers were appointed to clean public and private latrines, drains, etc., and to remove the cholera patients to the hospital and the dead bodies to the burial ground. During the Dole Jatra festival when over 30,000 people assembled, only four deaths from cholera were reported, while it caused 41 deaths during the Car-festival, which was attended by over a lakh and-a-half of people. A comparatively smaller number of persons, viz., about $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs, attended the Sonapur fair, and there were only four cases of the disease. At Santipur, during the Ras Jatra *melâ*, which lasted for three days and was attended by over 100,000 persons, cholera of a virulent type broke out and spread over the whole district. Several persons fell victims to this disease during some of the principal *melâs* at Nayadwip. There were two cases of it at the Tribeni fair in the Hooghly district which was attended by over 10,000 people. The Gunga Sagar *melâ* in the 24-Parganas district and the Caragola fair in the Purnea district and other big fairs in the province were free from the outbreak of any epidemic disease.

Vaccination.

[Report on Vaccination in Bengal for the triennial years 1908-1910. Statistics of British India, Part V—Area, Population and Public Health.]

586. The year under review was marked by a large decrease in the mortality from small-pox. In fact it has been the lowest for several years past, the total number of deaths amounting to 7,440, as compared with 38,609 and 35,966 during the two preceding years, and 26,612, the average of the five years 1905-09, the corresponding ratios being .14, .76, .71 and .52 per mille respectively. The disease was totally absent in 72 towns and 123 rural areas during 1910, against 21 and 26 towns and 16 and 14 rural areas during the two previous years. The incidence of the disease was highest during March, April and May, when the death-rate amounted to .02 per mille during each of those months, and lowest during October, when it was .001. Altogether 1,995,463 vaccinations were performed during 1910, as against 2,064,920 and 1,997,001 during the two preceding years.

The Poisons Act.

[Report on the working of the Poisons Act, I of 1904, during the year 1910.]

587. The steps taken during 1909 to make generally known the provisions of the Act and the Rules were continued during 1910, and there was little excuse for any plea of ignorance among those who dealt in poisons,—for the most part medical practitioners, chemists, druggists and *banîjs*. The total numbers of licenses granted in the province were 275 under section 2, and 388 under section 4 in comparison with 261 and 321 in the previous year. As in 1909, the largest number of licenses outside Calcutta were current in the Burdwan and Presidency divisions. There was some increase in the number of licenses issued in the Tirhut division, but the number in the Bhagalpur and Patna divisions remained practically stationary. The total number of prosecutions instituted under the Act in the province was 60, of which 50 ended in conviction. This shows a decrease on the figures of the previous year, namely, 72 prosecutions and 33 convictions. There were, however, 12 districts in which no prosecutions were instituted, and it is difficult to believe that over so extensive an area the Act was not infringed.

Working of the
Poisons Act

CHAPTER VII.—INSTRUCTION.

General System of Public Instruction.

See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1901-1902, PART II,
PAGES 306-314.

Education.

[Report on Public Instruction in Bengal for 1910-1911—Statistics of British India, Part VII—
Educational]

Financial

588. The year was marked by a steady progress in all branches of educational work in Bengal, the increase being marked both in the number of institutions and of pupils. Expenditure increased by about 10 lakhs, 7·9 per cent. of which was contributed from public funds and 92·1 per cent. from private sources, such as fees, subscriptions, etc. The net departmental expenditure from provincial revenues was Rs 42,48,056, which does not take into account sums spent on medical schools or on the medical college, or by the Public Works Department in the construction or repair of educational buildings.

Educational Service.

589. Three new appointments were created in the Indian Educational Service, viz., two Professorships for the David Hare Training College and a Professorship of Mining Engineering in the Civil Engineering College, Sibpur. Four, fifteen and two new appointments were added respectively to the Provincial Educational Service, Subordinate Educational Service and Lower Subordinate Educational Service.

Inspecting Staff

590. Financial considerations prevented the introduction during the year of the scheme sanctioned in April 1909 for providing the Tirhut division with a separate superior inspecting staff. A scheme for the redistribution of the existing additional Inspectors on the basis of the numbers of high schools in the different divisions has recently been sanctioned. A scheme for the transfer of all Deputy Inspectors, Additional Deputy Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors from the ordinary cadre of the Subordinate Educational Service to a separate cadre is under consideration.

Collegiate Education

691. The number of Arts Colleges remained stationary, but the number of students increased by 1,164. Considerable advance was made with the extension scheme of the Presidency College. A special committee was appointed to give final shape to the scheme. It has not completed its labours, but the main lines on which the project will proceed have been laid down. The new laboratory buildings for the departments of Physics, Physiology, Botany and Geology were commenced. The scheme for providing new laboratories for the Patna College has been engaging the attention of Government for the last six years, during which time a sum of Rs. 1,66,300 has been allotted for Government educational buildings at Patna and Bankipore almost entirely in connection with the college.

Secondary Education.

592. There was an increase both in the number of secondary schools and pupils. The former increased by 21 per cent. and the latter by 7·2 per cent. Expenditure also increased by nearly 4·4 per cent. All high schools are now systematically inspected on behalf of the University. The position of many high and middle schools under private management is, however, not yet quite satisfactory.

Primary Education.

593. There was a fair increase in the number of pupils receiving primary education, and the statistics show that one in every six children of school-going age was receiving primary instruction. The expenditure increased by more than six lakhs. Of the total expenditure 41·4 per cent. was met from public funds and 58·6 per cent. from fees and private sources.

594. The scheme for the pleaders' certificate of proficiency in surveying came into force in April 1910, and classes for practical instruction of six weeks' duration were opened at the Civil Engineering College

Pleaders' Survey Examinations.

595. Classes for teaching dyeing, both synthetic and natural, were opened in the Civil Engineering College, Sibpur, and a new Professor of Tinctorial Chemistry was recruited to take charge of this branch of instruction. In pursuance of a policy which had been strongly recommended by the Mining Advisory Board, local mining classes were started in four centres, Sijua, Jharia, Charanpur and Dasherghari, and are doing very useful work in the coal fields. Fifty per cent. of the students passed at the last sessional examination.

Civil Engineering College, Sibpur

596. There are weaving classes at three outlying centres, besides a special weaving school at Sambalpur. During the year the Central Weaving Institute at Serampore passed out its first batch of students from the higher class. Eighteen students appeared, of whom 12 passed, 9 in the first class and 3 in the second. Some of the students found employment almost immediately, and the others are trying to start small handloom factories. A grant of Rs. 1,000 was made towards the nucleus of a library.

Serampore Weaving Institute.

597. The retention on a permanent basis of the Government Commercial classes, now styled the Government Commercial Institute, was sanctioned during the year. The institute is doing very valuable work.

Government Commercial Institute

598. As the two institutions maintained by Government for the training of teachers of English, namely, the David Hare Training College, Calcutta, and the Patna Training College, Bankipore, have conclusively demonstrated their utility, measures are now in contemplation for placing them on a sound permanent basis. Teachers in Government schools are deputed to one or other of the colleges on full pay, and arrangements are made to ensure that all existing teachers (or at least those of a suitable age) will eventually be trained.

Training Colleges

599. The year under review marks an advance in the history of training schools. The second grade training school at Motihari has been raised to the first grade, while the term of training has been extended to three years in all training schools and revised courses of studies have been introduced.

Training Schools

600. The *guru*-training school buildings have been transferred to the Public Works Department. The number of *gurus* who obtained efficiency certificates in 1910 was 1,232.

Guru-Training Schools.

601. The number of girls receiving instruction rose from 167,514 to 173,204. The upper classes of girls' high schools are beginning to attract new pupils. The system of *purda* examination has aroused interest in learning and the peripatetic teachers are doing useful work. Progress in the primary education of girls in village schools is however slow owing to a dearth of trained teachers, the inadequacy of the salaries offered and the antipathy or indifference of conservative villagers. The Badshah Nawab Razvi Training School at Patna has been doing very good work and is growing in popularity, and already there are more applications for admission than there are vacancies. The first batch of trained teachers has been sent out, and it is reported that all are willing to work as teachers in other districts.

Education of Indian Girls

602. The Inspector of European Schools, Bengal, assumed the position of General Secretary in this Province for the University of Cambridge Local Examination, and two centres for holding these examinations were recognised. There was an increase of 200 pupils and of Rs. 1,31,901 in expenditure. In the training classes for female teachers at Kurseong, 7 out of 8 senior students and 11 out of 12 junior students were successful.

European Schools

603. There was an increase of 59 per cent. in the number of Muhammadan boys attending all classes of educational institutions. The new course of studies for *mukhtabs* was introduced during the year, and five *guru*-training schools were started exclusively for the teachers of *mukhtabs*. A sum of Rs. 6,477 was spent during the year in grants-in-aid to private Madrasas to enable them to adopt the constitution and curriculum prescribed for Madrasas in Bengal.

Muhammadan Education.

604. The number of boys at the Reformatory School on 31st March 1911 was 467. Of these, 280 were Hindus, 151 Muhammadans, 13 Native School

Reformatory School

Christians and 23 aborigines. Reading, writing and arithmetic were taught in vernacular, and composing and typewriting in English. The drawing class for freehand, model and mechanical drawing was maintained, and the night classes under the "Lancaster system" were also sanctioned permanently during the year. The boys were instructed in drill, gymnastics and first aid to the injured, and were also trained as far as possible in their hereditary occupations. The principal industries taught were blacksmiths' work, carpentry, cane and bamboo work, tinwork, weaving, tailoring, shoe-making, book-binding, cooking, farming and gardening, dairy-keeping, masons' work, etc. At the Allahabad Exhibition of 1911, one silver and two bronze medals were awarded by the Exhibition Committee for specimens of work sent up by the Reformatory School.

Hostels

605. The question of providing suitable and adequate hostel accommodation under proper supervision has engaged the attention of both the Bengal Government and the Government of India. A sum of 12½ lakhs of rupees has been sanctioned by the Government of India for the construction of hostel buildings not only for collegiate students but also for school boys in Calcutta and the mufassal. A new hostel called the Baker Madrassa Hostel for Muhammadan students was started in Calcutta with accommodation for 100 students.

Literature and the Press.

[Statistics of British India, Part VII—Educational]

Bengal
Library.

606. The number of publications registered and catalogued during the year 1910 was 4,358, showing an increase of 13.9 per cent. on the number registered in 1909, when 3,837 publications were received. Of the publications received, 2,948 were books, of which 2,502 were original publications and 446 reproductions. The number of periodicals received rose from 1,182 in 1909 to 1,410 in 1910 representing 171 distinct periodicals. The majority of these were written in Bengali and English, the numbers being 92 and 51, respectively. The increase in the number of publications received shows that the literary activity of the two previous years was fully maintained.

Subject.

607. The year was particularly rich in biographical and historical literature and books on travel; in fact these forms of literature appear to be ousting drama and fiction from popular favour. Among biographies the most noticeable works were "Life of Ananda Mohan Bose" by Hem Chandra Sarkar, B.A., and "The Master as I saw him" by Nivedita (Miss Noble). The former is a sketch of the life of Ananda Mohan Bose, Barrister-at-Law, politician, educationist and social and religious reformer; but considering the life of manifold activity led by Ananda Mohan, the biographer hardly does justice to the subject, a fault perhaps due to absence of materials. The latter is the testimony of an English lady to the life and teachings of Swami Vivekanda, a religious teacher who exercised a greater influence on educated Hindu thought than any other teacher of the 19th century, with the exception of Ram Mohan Roy. Historical works reflected the desire of educated Bengalis to write a history of their province from their own point of view, while of the books on travel the most remarkable was "Bharat Bhraman" by Babu Dharani Kanta Lahiri Chaudhuri, a zamindar of Mymensingh, which is a well illustrated volume of 807 pages and a mine of information about every place of historical note or religious repute in India. It is worthy of note that publications on caste questions continued to show a large increase, a fact which reflects the revolution through which Hindu society is passing, and the desire of the lower castes to prove their claims to a place among the three twice-born castes of the ancient Aryans.

Working of the
Press Act

608. The passing of the new Press Act had a marked effect in checking the growth of sedition in literature. Historical dramas, a form of literature which had formerly been largely used as medium for the publication of seditious sentiment, decreased in number, vernacular magazines almost altogether ceased to deal with political questions, though stories, poems, etc., inculcating the virtues of patriotism and swadeshim, were still to be found; the attention of the people was rather directed to social, economic and educational questions.

The Indian
Press

609. During the year 1910 the total number of newspapers and periodicals published was 354, of which 128 were newspapers and 226 periodicals.

This number represents an increase of about 12·38 per cent. on the figures of the previous year. Of these publications, about 48 per cent. were written in Bengali and 31 per cent. in English. The *Hitavadi* was the most widely read paper, either English or Vernacular, and had a circulation of 30,000 copies; next came the *Basumati* with 17,000, the *Statesman* with 15,500, the *Bangavasi* with 15,000, the *Indian Daily News*, the *Englishman*, the *Empire* and the *Sanjivani* with 10,000. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* and other extremist papers all showed a decrease in circulation, while the *Bengalee* increased in popularity.

610. The police continued to meet with severe criticisms in the columns of the Vernacular Press. If the police were adversely criticised in Courts of Law, highly coloured and misleading versions of their misdeeds were given a conspicuous place in the newspapers, while any praise given by the Courts was either passed by unnoticed or mentioned only to be condemned. Jail administration, and in particular the treatment of political prisoners, was another topic which met with hostile criticism. Other matters of a political character which attracted special notice were the prohibition of District Conferences in Eastern Bengal under the Seditious Meetings Act, the prohibition of the boycott celebration in Calcutta and the circular discountenancing the Partition Meeting, while the chief legislative measures of the year which were discussed were the Press Act, the Calcutta Police Act, the Seditious Meetings Act and the Calcutta Improvement Bill.

Topics discussed in the Press

611. During the year 1910 it was decided to give financial assistance to a vernacular newspaper of loyal tone. This proposal not unexpectedly met with much adverse criticism, but at the same time it is significant that both in the Press and in the debate in the Local and Imperial Legislative Councils there was a general concensus of opinion that in view of the indiscriminate misrepresentation to which Government was exposed in the Vernacular Press, it was only right that measures should be taken to assist and encourage the spread of sober opinion and accurate information when the intentions and acts of Government were concerned. An agreement was entered into by Government with Rai Narendra Nath Sen Bahadur, the editor of the *Indian Mirror*, and the first number of this newspaper made its appearance shortly after the close of the year under review, with the title of *Sulabh Samachar*.

Sulabh Samachar

Literary Societies

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1910-1911
PAGES 21-22

Arts and Sciences.

612. During the year under review Dr. A. duPré Denning, Superintendent of Industries and Inspector of Technical and Industrial Institutions, visited all the industrial and technical schools in Bengal, and also various institutions and works in Madras and the United Provinces. He was during the year appointed a member of the Governing Body of the Civil Engineering College, Sibpur, and Secretary to both the Joint Technical Examination Board and the Mining Educational Advisory Board.

Inspection.

613. On the 31st March 1911 the number of students in the Engineering Department of the college was 89 as against 92 in the previous year. The maximum strength of the Apprentice Department was 226, as compared with 230 last year. The total expenditure of the college decreased to Rs. 2,02,150 from Rs. 2,73,257 in the previous year. The new Professor of Tinctorial Chemistry arrived in November 1910, and classes for teaching Dyeing and Chemistry of colouring matters, both synthetic and natural, were opened. Five regular students have been attending these lectures and doing practical work, besides two occasional students. The equipment of the Technological laboratory is being taken in hand. The appointments of Demonstrators in Electrical Engineering and in Applied Mathematics were sanctioned. Special lectures at the college were given by the Hon'ble Mr. B. K. Finnamore, Chief Engineer to the Government of Bengal, and by Mr. M. H. Arnott, Superintending Engineer, Sone Circle. In the Mining classes held at the college there were 16 students at the beginning of the session; of these, 2 dropped out, leaving 14, 8 in course I and 6 in course II. Five students were

Civil Engineering College, Sibpur.

successful in gaining diplomas. The general health of the college is reported to have been better than last year.

**Mining
instruction in
mining
districts.**

614. In accordance with the arrangements sanctioned by Government in November last, Mining classes were opened in the four centres of Sijua, Jharia, Charanpur and Deshergarh under selected colliery managers. At the sessional examination 50 per cent. of the candidates passed. The examiners report that the classes are performing a very useful work in the coal-fields.

**Bihar School of
Engineering**

615. During the year under report the Bihar School of Engineering continued to maintain its lead as to percentage of passes among the premier institutions sending up candidates for the Joint Technical Examination. The proposal for the improvement of the workshop was approved by Government during the year, and Rs. 19 000 has been sanctioned for the purchase of new machinery, etc.,—the expenditure to be spread over three years. The work of the school was hampered by sickness among the students at the commencement of the session. To minimise the chances of sickness, the Civil Surgeon has suggested the use of fly-proof doors and windows in all the cook-rooms. The expenditure incurred on the school was Rs. 47,343, as compared with Rs. 47,466 last year. The scheme for providing Orissa with a School of Engineering has been kept in abeyance.

Survey Schools

616. There were 96 students in the Cuttack Survey School, and the expenditure amounted to Rs. 4,814. At the Survey Final Examination 55 appeared and 46 passed, 28 of whom were Uriyas. The scheme for the reorganization of the survey schools at Cuttack and Patna, mentioned in last year's report, could not be introduced, owing to want of funds.

**Weaving
Institute and
Schools.**

617. In the year under report the Central Institute passed out its first batch of students from the higher class. Eighteen students appeared, of whom 12 passed, 9 in the first class and 3 in the second. Six of the candidates found employment almost immediately, and of the remainder, two have purchased land with a view to start a small hand loom factory, while others are willing to follow their example, if funds can be raised for the purpose. The majority of the students who passed out of the Art classes have turned the instruction they received to profitable account. Two new centres have been opened during the year, so that in all there are three outlying centres and a special weaving school at Sambalpur. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor visited the institution during the year, and was pleased to sanction a grant of Rs. 1,000 towards the nucleus of a library.

**Technical
Schools.**

618. During the year Government approved of the revised syllabus for the Sub-Overseer and the Overseer courses and the new rules for the conduct of these examinations. The examinations were conducted by the Joint Technical Examination Board as was done last year.

**Industrial
Schools.**

619. These institutions are reported to have worked satisfactorily. The Central Lace School at Kalimpong was honoured by the acceptance by Her Majesty the Queen-Empress of a Brussels lace handkerchief worked by Nepali and Lepcha girls.

**Government
Commercial
Institute**

620. In the year under review Government sanctioned the retention of the Government Commercial classes on a permanent basis, and changed their designation to that of "Government Commercial Institute." It is reported that the teaching on the whole is comprehensive, and that the successful candidates of the institution are everywhere appreciated.

**Calcutta
School of Art**

621. The Government School of Art had an accession of 47 pupils. It is attended not only by students from Bengal, but also by several from Madras, Mysore, Ceylon, the Punjab and the United Provinces. The Principal feels that the school has improved much during the year under report and that the work done has been above the average.

**B and C Class
Examinations.**

622. At the B Final Examination held for both the Bengalis, 121 candidates appeared and 55 passed. Sixty per cent. of the candidates from Bengal and 41.7 per cent. from Eastern Bengal and Assam were successful. The C classes continue to be unpopular, and those at the Hare School and the Calcutta Madrasa had to be closed for want of students.

**Agricultural
Classes**

623. The Agricultural classes connected with certain High schools were abolished last year. "Nature Study," however, forms an important part of the curriculum in most schools, and a scheme for awarding medals and diplomas in that subject to pupils in Training, Middle and Primary schools is under the consideration of the Director of Public Instruction.

CHAPTER VIII.—ARCHÆOLOGY.

Archæology

624. The work of removing the shafts of the Northern and Southern **Monuments** pillars at Rampurwa, in the district of Champaran, to the top of the low mounds **and antiquities** in the near vicinity was taken in hand, and the excavation of earth was partly carried out. Special repairs to the *dargah* of Makdum Shah's tomb at Manan and the work of conservation of the tank south of Manair were nearly completed. The tomb of Mahomed Reja Khan, *alias* Mozuffer Jang, formerly Naib Nazir of Bengal, was thoroughly repaired.

CHAPTER IX.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

Ecclesiastical.

Establishment.

626. The Ecclesiastical establishment in Bengal during the year, paid entirely or in part by Government consisted of the Lord Bishop of Calcutta, the Archdeacon of Calcutta, the Bishop's Chaplain, the Registrar of the Diocese, 14 chaplains of the Church of England, the Senior and the second chaplains of the Church of Scotland, 10 ministers of the Additional Clergy Society or other Societies, and the Most Reverend Archbishop Dr. Brice-Meuleman, S.J., and five priests of the Roman Catholic Church.

Chemical Examiner's Department.

[Report of the Chemical Examiner for 1910—Statistics of British India, Part VI—Administrative and Judicial]

Total of cases.

626. During the year under review 6,959 articles were examined, as compared with 6,646 in the previous year.

Analyses.

627. The total number of analyses in the general department was 2,895 as against 2,232 in 1909. The increase was chiefly due to additional work performed for the Customs Department and for the Chief Presidency Magistrate, Calcutta. Thirty-two samples of *ghee* were received during the year, and of these 14 samples were of good quality, the remaining 18 samples were found to be adulterated with animal or vegetable oil. Six hundred and twenty-one samples of cocaine were received, as compared with 243 during the previous year. Two hundred and one samples of drinking-water were examined as compared with 116 in the preceding year. It is satisfactory to note that the percentage of pure and wholesome water was considerably higher than in the previous year.

Medico-legal cases.

628. The total number of articles examined medico-legally during the year 1910 was 4,064 as compared with 4,414 in the preceding year. The decrease of 350 articles, which occurred solely under the heading of "Articles received in connection with animal poisoning cases," may possibly have been due to the operations of the Poisons Act of 1904, several cases under the Act having been referred to the department during the year under review. The viscera of 805 individuals suspected of having been poisoned were examined, as against 775 in 1909. Poison was detected in 303, or 37.63 per cent., as compared with 40.00 per cent. in the previous year. Opium, which was as usual the most common poison used, was found in 208 viscera or contents. Arsenic was next in frequency with 5.32 per cent. of cases as compared with 7.86 per cent. in 1909. The viscera of 284 horned cattle were examined for poison as against 502 in 1909.

Veterinary Department.

[Report of the Veterinary College and of the ~~Civil~~ Veterinary Department, Bengal,
for the year 1910-11]

629. The number of students on the college roll at the beginning of the session was 176, but the actual number in the classes at the end of the session was 138. Of these, 38 came from Bengal, 15 from Bihar, 5 from Orissa, 67 from Eastern Bengal and Assam, and 13 from other provinces. The results of the final examination were satisfactory, the percentage of passes being 76. The conduct and general health of the students were good. The students' private sick bay, which was opened in 1909-10, has been useful and is appreciated. A curator-librarian has been appointed for the museum attached to the college. The usual nursing class for Army Transport drivers was held during the vacation and was attended by eight men who were found competent at the end of their course. **Bengal Veterinary College.**

630. The administration of the Glanders and Farcy Act in Calcutta and its neighbourhood was conducted smoothly and efficiently. During the year 4,025 stables containing about 16,000 horses were inspected and glanders was detected in 34 stables as against 54 in the preceding year. The total number of horses admitted into the contagious diseases hospital was 303, including 7 horses which were under observation at the close of the preceding year. Of these, 57 were destroyed, 10 died in hospital, 230 were discharged as free from glanders, and 6 remained under observation at the close of the year. A sum of Rs 245-5-4 was paid as compensation for the destruction of animals under the Glanders and Farcy Act in the area under the supervision of the Principal of the Veterinary College. There was no friction with the people. **Glanders and Farcy Act.**

631. The management of outbreaks of all epizootic diseases undertaken by Colonel Raymond with the sanction of the Calcutta Corporation has borne excellent results. Special provision was made for the inspection of cattle belonging to private milk-vendors. Rinderpest was prevalent in Calcutta and the suburbs during the year; and foot-and-mouth disease appeared in several parts of Calcutta and in the Howrah and Garden Reach municipal areas. Prompt assistance was rendered in all these outbreaks. In Calcutta and the suburbs 2,276 cattle were inoculated against rinderpest. **Infectious diseases in Calcutta.**

632. During the year under report 5,869 cases were treated as compared with 5,680 during the previous year, showing an increase of 189. These figures do not include 4,000 hackney-carriage horses which were examined for the Calcutta Corporation. The number of animals sent for treatment to the college hospital in connection with cruelty cases was very small. **College Hospital.**

633. This institution continued to do excellent work in the diagnosis of contagious and obscure diseases in cases admitted into the hospital and from materials sent by veterinary officers from the mufassal. The laboratory has now been fitted with an electric installation and with up-to-date instruments. Two veterinary graduates from the Civil Veterinary Department, Bengal, passed the post-graduate course of training for promotion to Inspectorships during the year. **Raymond Research Laboratory.**

634. Though an improvement has been noticed in some districts with regard to the promptitude with which outbreaks of disease are reported, much still remains to be done in this respect. The Inspector-General of Police has issued orders that a register of diseases is to be kept in each thana. The staff of the Veterinary Department attended 232 outbreaks in the mufassal and performed 25,782 inoculations as compared with 12,746 during the previous year. In North Bhagalpur, Gaya, Hooghly, Burdwan, Sonthal Parganas, Muzaffarpur and Champaran the Veterinary Assistants met with great opposition, and the fact was brought to the notice of the District Magistrate on each occasion. The efficacy, however, of preventive inoculation is beginning to be recognized. **Civil Veterinary Department.**

635. No new dispensary was opened during the year. One is under construction at Bettiah, and one at Beguserai has not yet been equipped. Excluding the dispensaries at Howrah and Cooch Behar and the Pinjrapoles at Hazaribagh **Dispensaries.**

and Sodepur, there were 22 dispensaries under the direct supervision of the Superintendent during the year. It is proposed to close the dispensaries at Balasore, Palamau and Suri, in which very few cases are being treated. There was a slight falling-off in the total number of out-patients treated. The raiyats have not yet learnt to appreciate the usefulness of these dispensaries.

Staff.

636. There were 8 Inspectors and 71 Veterinary Assistants under the control of the Superintendent of the Civil Veterinary Department at the close of the year against 6 and 62 during the previous year. The scheme for the formation of a Provincial Veterinary Service was sanctioned during the year, but was not brought into operation. The local bodies concerned have been consulted by the Director of Agriculture, Bengal, and his recommendation to give effect to the scheme from the 1st April 1911 has been accepted by Government.

Breeding operations.

637. Government does not at present possess any farms for the breeding and rearing of bulls. Two such farms are, however, maintained by the Jathwa and Bettiah Wards' estates, which supply bulls for use in their respective areas. A herd of Siri cattle is being reared at Kalimpong by the St. Andrew's Colonial Homes with a view to improve the breed of cattle in Darjeeling. The demand for bulls for breeding purposes is on the increase, and the question has been engaging the attention of the Director of Agriculture for some time.

Zoological Garden, Calcutta.

[Annual Report by the Honorary Committee, 1910-11]

Buildings.

638. Many improvements were carried out during the year 1910-11 with a view to providing more suitable houses and enclosure for the animals in captivity, and allowing them to live in what are as nearly as possible their natural surroundings. The chief of these improvements were—

- (1) The new Monkey House.
- (2) The recreation enclosure to the Small Carnivora House.
- (3) The Barasingha Enclosure.

Finance and statistics

639. The financial condition continued to be exceptionally good. The entrance receipts amounted to Rs 42,018, an increase of Rs. 5,930 on those of the previous year. The total receipts amounted to Rs 1,01,877, and the total expenditure to Rs 76,806, leaving a closing balance of Rs 25,071. The total number of visitors was 537,122, or 37,494 more than in the previous year. The number of mammals, birds and reptiles in the garden at the close of the year was 599, 1,342 and 259, respectively; the increase in the two former classes during the past three years amounted to 198 and 547, respectively, while the latter class showed a decrease of 51.

Free admission.

640. The garden was, as in the previous year, free to the public on one day per month, and 47,139 persons availed themselves of this concession.

